



**John Lyttle
meets Liza
Minnelli**

Section Two, Arts, page 26

OLYMPIC COUNTDOWN

Today, an 8-page section
PLUS win a VIP trip to the Olympic Games
SEE SPORTS SECTION, OLYMPIC COUNTDOWN, PAGE 8, TELEPHONE ENTRY

summer of sport

Buy the Independent this Wednesday and
get our 12-page, midweek sports pull-out

THE INDEPENDENT

3,027

MONDAY 1 JULY 1996

WEATHER A lot of cloud, some showers

40p (inc 45p)

In an Islington rose garden, Tony Blair reshapes the future of his party

Labour leader to crush dissent

COLIN BROWN
Chief Political Correspondent

Tony Blair last night defied criticism of his autocratic style of leadership as he rewrote key sections of the party's draft manifesto on which Labour will fight the general election.

The 10,000-word policy document, being redrafted at home by Mr Blair, will emphasise the message that new Labour has jettisoned past commitments on tax and spending. The launch on Thursday will focus on law and order, cuts in school class sizes, welfare to work plans, health, and the economy.

Mr Blair last week tore up copies of the 1.5m manifesto and decided to rewrite it himself because it failed to get across his message over the extent to which Labour had changed. It will reinforce his grip on the party, in spite of the storm he faced in Scotland.

In another major shift, Labour will signal today it intends to abandon past threats to abolish private beds from the NHS. Instead, Labour will shift the argument towards improving the NHS to make private health care unnecessary. Harriet Harman, Labour's health spokeswoman, will announce plans to release £100m for an extra 100,000 operations on the NHS by cutting the number

of managers in the health service after abolishing the NHS "internal market".

Sources close to the Labour leader dismissed threats of resignation by Scottish and Welsh Labour MPs over his U-turn on devolution, and regarded the criticism of Mr Blair's tough leadership style as a bonus, which could play well with voters in "middle England". "He is showing the leadership that John Major lacks," said one senior Labour source.

Mr Blair has calculated that the Scottish Labour MPs who were infuriated by the lack of consultation will accept the dramatic shift in policy with a referendum, and will not resign the party whip to join the SNP. But there were strong signs of a backlash by Scottish Labour critics last night over Mr Blair's plan to put the tax-raising powers of the Scottish Parliament to the Scottish voters in a separate referendum question.

One senior Scottish Labour MP said there would be a move to limit the referendum to the single question of whether or not the Parliament should be established. Tam Dalyell, the veteran Labour MP who was responsible for causing difficulties in the last attempt to give Scotland devolution, said last night the Commons should decide the powers of the Parliament before the referendum was put to the Scottish people. "The only question for the referendum should be do you support the 1978 Scotland Act passed by Parliament?"



Weeding out the opposition: Tony Blair works on the Labour manifesto at his London home yesterday

Photograph: Peter Macdiarmid

The fight-back to guarantee the tax-raising powers of the Parliament is likely to be started today by the cross-party Scottish Constitutional Convention and Scottish Labour MPs at a meeting tomorrow at Westminster.

Long-term plans to reduce the power of the party's National Executive Committee being canvassed by Tom Sawyer, the party's general secretary, led to reports that Mr Blair was intending to couple his drive on policy change with a purge of any critics.

His supporters yesterday denied plans for a purge, but made it clear that the NEC did have existing powers to require

the loyalty of MPs and candidates in the run-up to the election. "We want to ensure that MPs and candidates do not appear on TV supporting Tory ministers to criticise the party," said one Labour source.

The aim of the changes to the NEC is to ensure that a Labour Prime Minister and his Cabinet would not face a power struggle from the NEC, which could be used as the focus of discon-

tent through trade unions. By stripping it of its policy-making powers, Mr Blair is determined to have a stronger grip on power and his party than any of his predecessors.

A radical change in the Tories' strategy for dealing with Mr Blair will be adopted at a special political meeting of the Cabinet today chaired by John Major. The party's advisers have warned that its past at-

tempt to claim that Labour has not "changed its spots" are not believed by the voters.

In an attempt to clarify its attack on Mr Blair, the Tories will adopt a new strategy to warn the voters that with "new Labour" comes "new dangers" such as the break-up of the Union with Scotland and Wales.

But Lord Tebbit, the former chairman of the Tory party, last night said Mr Major should

challenge Mr Blair to extend his commitment to referendums to European monetary union. "He has stepped straight into a trap. You cannot say it is such a constitutional change that you have a referendum on devolution and then deny it on things like Maastricht. He has made Jimmy Goldsmith enormously credible."

Leading article, page 13
Frank Field, page 15

Fraud Office probes regional grants

CHRIS BLACKHURST
Assistant Chief Correspondent

Local authorities are conducting enquiries into possible fraud in the hundreds of millions of pounds of regional grants being awarded to them by the central government.

The Department of Trade and Industry is conducting a departmental inquiry into the handling of the Regional Development Grants (RDGs) by local authorities.

Each year the RDGs are worth about £1.5 billion.

five schemes running into hundreds of millions of pounds.

One grant by the South West Development Board, involving £1m of taxpayers' money to Rom-Data Corporation, is being investigated by the Devon and Cornwall Police and the Serious Fraud Office in an inquiry into the company's collapse.

But Rom-Data, the Indus group has learned, is just one of many cases where close connections existed between in-

dustrial development boards and the companies receiving their cash.

The development boards from the central plank in the Government's industrial policy, providing a link between Whitehall and commerce. They oversee several types of finance package and, last year, made recommendations totalling £140m in Regional Selective Assistance grants alone.

The National Audit Office and the influential Commons Public Accounts Committee (PAC) are standing by to launch their own inquiries. Robert Sheldon MP, chairman of the committee, has confirmed in a

letter the review of all the grants over £100,000 and the Audit Office and PACs' interest. He wrote: "The Department have now begun a review of all recent Regional Selective Assistance cases over £100,000 to identify further problems or circumstances similar to those in the Rom-Data case. The Department expects this to be completed by September."

Indications are, added Mr Sheldon, "that the SFO's inquiries should also be completed by the end of summer". The PAC chairman described the issues raised as "very disturbing". Sir John Bourn, the Comptroller and Auditor General, who heads the Audit Office, wrote Mr Sheldon, "will monitor developments closely; and I have asked him to consider how best to bring the matter before the Committee in the Autumn".

Close ties between people sitting on the powerful industrial boards and companies receiving Government assistance go to the heart of the quango system. Even before the wider, nationwide scrutiny has finished, and ahead of the completion of the police investigation, the DTI has decided to tighten up its procedures. Consultants to the boards must now agree to a contract requiring them not to

work for companies for two years after they last received regional assistance cash. DTI staff are to receive extra training in the detection of fraud.

The size of the boards is to be increased and the rules on the minimum number of members required for a meeting strengthened to prevent, as occurred in the South West, decisions being taken with only five people present.

WHERE
TO ACQUIRE
A TASTE
FOR OYSTERS



The seamless Oyster shell of a Rolex chronometer is hewn from a single block of stainless steel, 18ct. gold or platinum. Within it lies a self-winding movement that has taken over a year to create. With prices starting at £1,155, the Oyster you always promised yourself is available from the Harrods Watch Department on the Ground Floor. Not, we might add, from the Food Hall.

Harrods
Harrods, Knightsbridge SW1X 7NL, Telephone 0171-730 1234.
Watch shown available in 18ct. yellow gold priced £2,000, white gold £1,900 and platinum £1,950.

QUICKLY
Lesson for teachers

Headteachers will inspect teacher training colleges after claims that H.M. Majesty's Inspectors are too soft on trendy teaching methods. Page 2

Veterans return

Veterans of the Battle of the Somme, August 1914-1918, were held in a single day, reportedly extended to the fields in which they fought. Page 7

England's own goal

The colony of people queuing for tickets has become a regular feature at Wimbledon - acquiring tickets through the Lawn Tennis Association's annual ballot is regarded as soft by the colony's die-hards. Corporate hospitality tickets are not even regarded as real tennis. The steel barriers left conveniently by the police to control the day-time crowds are used by the pavement colonists to delineate their own piece of little England. Emily Aslin, Lindsay Hasser and Neil Sher-

Belts shake Mexico

Mexican stock market is still in a state of flux today after emergence of a new "guerrilla army". Page 12

John downstairs

A wealthy heir is living more like a pauper than a prince in a new house. Page 3

Happy campers pitch up for Henman

JAMES CUSICK

It looked like a colony of homeless refugees. Makeshift tarpaulins stretched over the pavement towards the west entrance of the All England Tennis Club yesterday. But this colony stretched around the perimeter of the All England Tennis Club where the only war zone is usually Centre Court or Number One Court.

The colony of people queuing for tickets has become a regular feature at Wimbledon - acquiring tickets through the Lawn Tennis Association's annual ballot is regarded as soft by the colony's die-hards. Corporate hospitality tickets are not even regarded as real tennis.

The steel barriers left conveniently by the police to control the day-time crowds are used by the pavement colonists to delineate their own piece of little England. Emily Aslin, Lindsay Hasser and Neil Sher-



Tim Henman: Last hope of glory

"The queue is the most important thing to me about Wimbledon. Pre-paid is just not tennis but this is Little England. Around the three-metre was enough equipment to set up base camp at Everest; a dome tent that could have survived a Sahara wind and enough food and drink that would be the envy of a famine zone.

Each colonist's space around the entire All England Club's perimeter is customised and seemingly more elaborate as each unit returns with a little more experience each year.

The Royal Box may be inside on Centre Court, but the Royal Colony this year, outside, belonged to four women from North Devon and Worcestershire. The candelabra was the give-away - along with a table for four and a storm tent with blow-up mattress, colour coordinated quilt and pillows, small external heater, a two ring stove with grill, matching towel and

flannels and a pile of smoked salmon canapés neatly arranged on the table.

Sheila Braunton and Sally Clegg, both from Devon, and Denise Biggy and Cath Young, from Malvern in Worcestershire, left home at around 4.30am yesterday to take up position number 100 in the queue.

Why do they do it? "We love tennis and we don't want to watch it at home and have to listen to Virginia Wade. We come for the atmosphere," explained one camper.

By 7.30 this morning, the colony will have dismantled for the day. By 9.30 each will have the £30 pass which will allow triumphalism to take its place on Centre Court as Tim Henman, Britain's final chance in the men's singles is hopefully cheered on to the quarter-finals. And if there is disappointment? "It does not matter, we will be back next year."

Photograph, page 2

CONTENTS

Section 1	
BUSINESS	17-19
COMMENT	13-15
CROSSWORD	20
LEADING ARTICLES	13
LETTERS	13
OBITUARIES	16
SCIENCE	20
SHARES	17
Section 2	
ARTS	26-27
DO WE NEED?	8-25
FAMILY LIFE	6-7
LISTINGS	23-29
LIVING	4-5
NETWORK	9-15
TV & RADIO	31-32
WEATHER	29



هكذا من الاجل

news

New curbs on teacher-trainers

JUDITH JUDD and FRAN ABRAMS

Headteachers will be drafted in to inspect teacher-training colleges after allegations that Her Majesty's Inspectors are too lenient towards progressive teaching methods.

Chris Woodhead, the controversial Chief Inspector of Schools, has infuriated HMI by ordering that reports on primary teacher training should be re-written.

The official explanation offered by the Office for Standards in Education (Ofsted), which Mr Woodhead leads, is that the reports, due to be published in the next fortnight,

must be rewritten because the rules about inspections have changed.

But the 35 HMIs who inspect teacher-training colleges told Mr Woodhead at a meeting last week that his decision was a slur on their professional judgement.

Mr Woodhead believes that his office must investigate allegations that the reports present too rosy a picture of teacher-training standards.

Right-wing MPs and traditionalists have long argued that progressive teacher trainers are responsible for trendy teaching methods and low standards in schools. They have also blamed HMIs for failing to support

traditional teaching and for not putting enough emphasis on the basics.

Mr Woodhead argues that he must take note of criticisms voiced by new teachers in a study of literacy in three London boroughs; they said they had not been properly prepared to teach reading.

He proposed that primary headteachers should work alongside HMIs in the new phase of inspections to ensure that teacher-training colleges and departments are putting enough emphasis on the basics of literacy and numeracy.

Gillian Shepherd, the Secretary of State for Education, announced earlier this year that

she intended to compile league tables for teacher-training colleges based on their inspection reports.

About half the 60 primary teacher training colleges and departments have been inspected and a summary of the findings they have made will be published shortly.

Although more than 20 reports have been published so far, only two departments have been identified as failing. All but a handful are likely to be classed as sound, good or very good in training young teachers in literacy and numeracy.

Mrs Shepherd—who recently announced a national curriculum for teacher training to

ensure that all teachers are trained how to teach by traditional methods—is expected to go ahead with the league tables despite Mr Woodhead's decision to reinspect colleges and departments.

Not all the colleges and departments would be reinspected. Ofsted may decide to take a random sample or to reinspect the worst and best.

A spokesman for Ofsted said there might be further inspections of primary training institutions next year but that this was not because of any dissatisfaction with the first batch.

"There will undoubtedly be a return to some of them to look in more depth, particularly at lit-

eracy and numeracy. The previous inspections were a broad-brush exercise," he said.

Ted Wragge, professor of education at the University of Exeter, said Ofsted inspectors had found that trainee teachers were already being taught to use the whole-class teaching methods that ministers favour.

"The concern among training institutions will be that the message is that inspectors' judgements are wrong and haven't been severe enough. If this is the equivalent of marking the cards of the inspectors who are being brought in to do the second inspections, then what is the point of sending them in?" he said.

SIGNIFICANT SHORTS

Police yesterday prevented an Orange parade going through a nationalist flashpoint in Belfast. Royal Ulster Constabulary Land Rovers blocked the Ormeau Road bridge where a religious service was staged to mark the 80th anniversary of the Battle of the Somme. The Orangemen wanted to parade to the city centre but security chiefs feared violence if the small gathering was allowed to cross the bridge into the Catholic area.

The demonstration passed off quietly but the Orangemen protested bitterly about the ban - the latest of a number in Belfast involving the Orange Order. Other controversial parades are planned between now and the run-up to the 12 July demonstrations. Last year there was a three-day stand-off between police and Orangemen in Portadown, Co Armagh after the RUC banned the parade from going through a Catholic area.

Nine-year-old boy died yesterday in a house fire after helping to save his family. Sean Evans raised the alarm ensuring that his parents, two brothers and sister escaped before the blaze engulfed their end-of-terrace house in Beechwood, Birkbehead.

Firefighters said Sean was having breakfast with two other children in the lounge when they heard a noise and discovered the fire in the hallway. He closed the door on the other children to keep the fire at bay and rushed upstairs to alert his parents who were in bed. While the rest of the family escaped, Sean was apparently trapped by a "blowtorch" effect as the fire swept up the stairwell. Sean's parents and the other children, aged between six and eleven, were being treated at Arrowe Park Hospital, Wirral, for smoke inhalation and shock. Police and fire brigade experts were investigating the cause of the fire.

Privatised train companies are still overcharging for tickets, failing to provide the cheapest available fare in up to 87 per cent of cases, according to a new survey. John Swift, the rail regulator, said if the findings proved to be correct he would not rule out the possibility of fines.

The Consumers' Association has repeated a survey carried out six months ago which found that overpricing was running at 90 per cent. The new survey shows the train companies have ignored warnings that they would be fined if they continued to breach the rules, according to a report on BBC TV programme *Panorama*, being screened tonight. The survey involved routes between London and Birmingham, Exeter and Bristol and found that out of 116 ticket inquiries, 101 responses were incorrect and overpriced - an error rate of 87 per cent, a BBC spokeswoman said. The tickets should have cost £6,593.80 but in fact totalled £12,855.50 - overcharging by £6,261.70.

The Home Secretary, Michael Howard, is appealing today against a ruling that he acted unlawfully in setting a minimum sentence for the schoolboy killers of two-year-old James Bulger. Government lawyers were preparing for a two-day battle at the Court of Appeal designed to protect the right of the Home Secretary to impose "tariffs" on juvenile murderers. The High Court ruled in May that Mr Howard was acting beyond his powers in ordering that Robert Thompson and Jon Venables be kept behind bars for 15 years for killing James in Bootle, Merseyside, in February 1993, when they were 10. It quashed the decision but granted leave to appeal. Judgment by the Court of Appeal is expected to be reserved until a later date. The new legal moves came as the pressure group Justice issued a new call for the Home Secretary to be stripped of all powers over setting tariffs for life sentences.

The most expensive theme-park ride to open this year in Britain is unveiled today. The multi-million pound attraction at Thorpe Park in Surrey claims to be the only ride in the world which plunges backwards, in total darkness. Called "X-No Way Out", the rollercoaster plummets from 40 feet at 40mph. It has taken four years to plan - including consultation with children - and is described as the most adventurous and innovative to open at Thorpe Park, which attracts about 1.4 million visitors a year.

New car buyers could save more than £1,000 if they were prepared to travel, according to a new survey. A Ford Escort 1.6LX on sale in London costs £12,955 but the identical model in Cardiff is £11,621, a saving of £1,334. The BBC TV *Value for Money* programme found that in Edinburgh the Escort could be had for £1,000 under the asking price. The smallest cut was in Bristol where the dealer took £500 off; in Manchester the reduction was £610 and in Birmingham £910. The worst time for discounts is August when the changing registration letter boosts sales. Around half a million new cars are likely to be sold then, so July is good for discounts as dealers want to clear old stock.

Two tickets hit the National Lottery jackpot on Saturday, winning £5.2m each. The winning numbers were 34, 35, 17, 27, 46, 4. The bonus ball was 7.

WYREDA SUBSCRIPTIONS
Australia £6.00 1/2pds £5.00
Belgium £6.00 1/2pds £5.00
Canada £6.00 1/2pds £5.00
Denmark £6.00 1/2pds £5.00
France £6.00 1/2pds £5.00
Germany £6.00 1/2pds £5.00
Greece £6.00 1/2pds £5.00
Hong Kong £6.00 1/2pds £5.00
India £6.00 1/2pds £5.00
Japan £6.00 1/2pds £5.00
Netherlands £6.00 1/2pds £5.00
New Zealand £6.00 1/2pds £5.00
Norway £6.00 1/2pds £5.00
Portugal £6.00 1/2pds £5.00
Singapore £6.00 1/2pds £5.00
South Africa £6.00 1/2pds £5.00
Spain £6.00 1/2pds £5.00
Sweden £6.00 1/2pds £5.00
Switzerland £6.00 1/2pds £5.00
Taiwan £6.00 1/2pds £5.00
Thailand £6.00 1/2pds £5.00
USA £6.00 1/2pds £5.00
West Germany £6.00 1/2pds £5.00
Yugoslavia £6.00 1/2pds £5.00



Flagging hopes: Fans of Tim Henman, Britain's emerging tennis star, queuing outside Wimbledon yesterday

Photograph: Peter Macdiarmid

Tories in new defence row

COLIN BROWN
Chief Political Correspondent

Defence ministers were threatened with a fresh rebellion over defence yesterday when senior Tory MPs warned they would oppose a Treasury move to cut

£400 million from the defence budget to finance tax cuts and other spending programmes.

Michael Colvin, the Tory chairman of the Commons select committee on defence, warned Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, to keep his "hands

off our national security" in preparing his next Budget.

"There would be a row if he tried to cut the defence budget and I just don't think he should. Our armed forces are at the moment overstretched. They need a period of future stability rather than further cuts."

He warned that it could backfire on the Tories. "With the election upon us the armed forces are going to see what the different parties say about their budgets."

The Cabinet will agree to keep a tight rein on public spending at a review of public spending on Thursday, but the Tory MP for Gosport, Peter Viggers, another member of the defence committee, said there was "certain" to be opposition if the cuts went ahead.

It came as the protests deepened over the £2bn sale of armed forces' married quarters last night. A defence minister admitted that assurances by the Prime Minister that families would not be moved out against their will could be broken.

John Major told MPs last Tuesday that no forces families would be moved out of their quarters against their will. But James Arthurs, the minister for defence procurement, admitted some could be offered "comparable" accommodation elsewhere.

Julian Brazier, the Tory backbencher leading the campaign to stop the sale, warned that Mr Major would have to intervene to uphold his assurance.

The Prime Minister has been to Bosnia, he takes a ter-

rifically personal interest in the armed forces. He doesn't make pledges lightly and the pledge was made very clear on Tuesday," Mr Brazier said on BBC radio.

He said the deal, allowing site exchanges, would have to be "very substantially changed" to guarantee families would not be uprooted against their will. The doubts are certain to make the families who oppose the sale, dig in their heels, and it will strengthen opposition among Tory peers to the sale.

Peers are ready to defeat the Government on the final stages of the Housing Bill with an amendment which would scupper the sale for a year. Labour is also poised to force a vote in the Commons against the sale.

Jonathan Aitken, a former defence minister, fuelled Tory backbench rumours that the campaign is aimed at undermining the chances of Michael Portillo, the Defence Secretary, sweeping the right wing votes in a leadership contest with John Redwood.

Mr Aitken said: "There is a sort of slight game of Portillo-hashing in some quarters."

"Some people may be playing that game and I would regret that if it was true."

Liberal Democrat defence spokesman Menzies Campbell said Mr Aitken's comments on BBC radio revealed splits among the Conservatives. "It is an extraordinary admission and will be deeply damaging to service morale that the sale has become an issue between camps."

Leading article, page 13

The men who handed out tax-payers' cash

Chris Blackhurst on
a possible conflict of interest in South-west

As a senior partner in the South-west office of KPMG, the accountancy firm, Roger Harris advises many of the region's most thriving businesses. As chairman of the region's Industrial Development Board he assists the Department of Trade and Industry in deciding which companies in the South West should have regional selective assistance grants.

Attending development board meetings is not much of an inconvenience for Mr Harris: his offices are in the same building as KPMG's in Plymouth. Last year, the South-west development board advised on grants totalling £7.4m. Six of those grants, worth £2.45m, were to companies in which Mr Harris has declared an interest. In fact on 31 occasions since he became chairman of the development board in 1991, grants were awarded to companies in which he declared he had an interest.

Mr Harris is not alone. Mr Oppenheim's answer to David Jamieson, the Labour MP for Devonport discloses that former and current South West development board members, Kenneth Holmes, Michael Knight, Graham Stirling, Michael Jordan and Phil Gregory have also had to declare an interest in companies applying for grants.

One of those where Mr Harris declared an interest was Rom-Data Corporation. A Fulmouth-based computer company, it applied for and was offered £750,000 of regional selective assistance cash in November 1991. The application was assessed by Mr Holmes, a businessman who has served as the board's chairman. After leaving he continued to work for the board as its external adviser, and had told the board when assessing the application that he had been offered a job with Rom-Data. Soon afterwards he became chairman.

In 1994, after receiving another £250,000 of DTI cash Rom-Data collapsed, owing £200,000 in wages. They, like the DTI, have never recovered their money. The Serious Fraud Office and Devon and Cornwall police are looking into the collapse of Rom-Data.

The DTI is reviewing all its industrial development boards, looking at whether they have close links, like the South-west board, with the companies applying for grants and if members have been properly declaring potential conflicts of interest.

Use this voucher to try our
12-page Summer of Sport
pull-out this Wednesday

THE INDEPENDENT
for only 10p on Wednesday

To the Reader: Hand this voucher to the newspaper with a copy of The Independent on Wednesday 3 July 1996 and pay only 10p (Home delivery customers have until 28 July 1996 to present this voucher to your newspaper). If you have any problems redeeming your voucher please call telephone 0800 666 821.

To the Retailer: Please accept this voucher as part payment for The Independent on Wednesday 3 July 1996, reader pays 10p. To receive your normal terms plus a 2p handling fee, please provide your retailer's name and your bar no. and return this completed voucher to your wholesaler by 31 July 1996. This voucher is not to be used in conjunction with any other offer - it is valid for The Independent only.

WHOLESALE NAME: _____ RETAILER'S BAR NO: _____
To the Wholesaler: Please credit the returning reader with 32p (R01 37p). This includes 2p Retailer Handling Allowance per voucher. To claim your credit together with 1p per voucher handled, please send to Voucher Redemption Ltd, 17 Orion Court, Grange Farm Rd, Basildon, Essex SS14 3UB.

Reader's name: _____
Address: _____
Tel: 0771010P



9 506480 120300



ONE CALL COULD PUT YOU IN POLE POSITION.

There's no better place to test the dynamic handling and performance of a BMW than on a racetrack.

Which is where you could find yourself when you enquire about BMW Approved Used Cars.

Every month, ten prize draw winners will enjoy an afternoon's performance driving courtesy of the Nigel Mansell Racing School at Brands Hatch, Oulton Park or Snetterton. Naturally, all Approved Used BMWs come with a full service history, as well as a year's

warranty and European breakdown cover. And, before reaching the Dealer showroom, each car undergoes 124 stringent checks - from the brakes to the contents of the toolkit. Proof that there's no better place to buy a used BMW.

For more details and your chance to win an afternoon at the Nigel Mansell Racing School, call now.

BMW INTERNET ADDRESS:
http://www.bmw.co.uk
0800 777 137



Approved
Used Cars

ALL PERSONS PROVIDING THEIR NAME AND ADDRESS BY CALLING 0800 777 137 WILL BE ENTERED INTO A MONTHLY DRAW OFFER ENDS 31/7/96. TEN PRIZES WILL BE OFFERED EACH MONTH. PARTICIPANTS MUST BE OVER 16 AND HOLD A FULL CURRENT DRIVING LICENCE. ONLY 1 ENTRY PER PERSON. WINNERS WILL BE NOTIFIED BY POST 2 WEEKS AFTER EACH MONTHLY DRAW WHICH WILL TAKE PLACE ON THE 15TH OF EACH MONTH. NO CASH ALTERNATIVE. NO EMPLOYEES OF BMW (GB) LTD, BMW DEALERS, AGENTS OR THEIR FAMILIES MAY ENTER. A LIST OF WINNERS WILL BE AVAILABLE ON WRITTEN REQUEST TO: BMW INFORMATION SERVICE, PO BOX 161, CROYDON CR8 1QR.

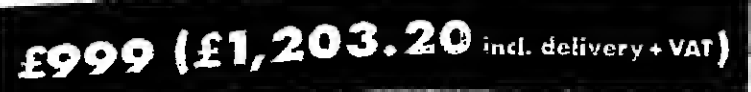
Servants back in below-stairs Britain

Prince close to divorce settlement offer



Prince Charles: Liquidity problem

Fast machine. Lean price. Call now.



TALK DIRECT TO THE NUMBER ONE.
01344 724632
 Between 8am and 8pm weekdays, 10am to 4pm Sat

Real is a registered trademark of the Dell Computer Corporation Ltd. LTRC, price and stock releases are applicable to regional shipments of Real Computers, Network Modules, Office Peripherals PS and the Realtime tags are registered trademarks of the Personal Computers System is charged at £25 a unit per system from order to date of completion. Dell Realtime is a service (subject to credit) to customers making 1 year or more. The photograph product has not always met the specifications. The above prices quoted refer to specifications discrepancies only. The prices listed reflect the information available at the time of going to press. Prices change frequently. All prices and specifications are subject to change without prior notice or obligation. To customers who order manufacturers' products are available from the UK via actual viewing 0494 66 approximately 1" less. Dell Computer Corporation Ltd, Malvern House, Victoria Road, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG24 1JQ. Offer available for a limited period only.

news

Football and race: Afro-Caribbean fans backed other teams in Euro 96 first in protest at tide of xenophobia

Blacks
'withdrew
England
support'

CLARE GARNER

Some British blacks supported teams other than England in Euro 96 because they felt the torrent of nationalism verged on xenophobia, according to a survey by Britain's leading black newspaper published tomorrow.

More than half of the respondents in a poll by *The Voice of Afro-Caribbean* football supporters aged between 19 and 55 said they refused to back the two British teams in the international tournament. Some said they backed teams with the largest contingent of black players, such as Holland and France, but they preferred even Germany, which had no black players, to England.

One respondent felt so strongly that he hailed Gareth Southgate's crucial penalty miss as "the foot of God". Another complained that there were

insufficient black players in the England side, saying: "Les Ferdinand should have been there. They only used Ince. That wasn't right. Regardless of the strategic validity, or not, [of Terry Venables's decision] it is the visual image that counts." Herman Ousley, chairman of the Commission for Racial Equality and the Advisory Group Against Racism and Intimidation (AGARI), which tackles violence in football, insisted that the subject must be debated in a wider context. Why, he asked, did so many Scots, for example, celebrate the England defeat?

Mr Ousley believes some blacks turned their backs on the England side for fear of what would follow an England victory. "What was natural patriotism turns to nationalism and becomes tinged with xenophobia as part of the jingoism. A lot of people feel



Lone voice: A rare black face among England supporters at Wembley during Euro 96

Photograph: Laurence Griffiths

they have been at the sharp end of that sort of diatribe. What was most worrying for them is: 'Should England win this Euro 96 it will be never-ending.'

He added: "Blacks would undoubtedly identify with teams with more black players. It's very natural when they feel there isn't the same representation that they can empathise with

within the national football side."

The survey again raises the question: "What does it mean to be British?" and recalls the infamous "cricket test" proposed by Lord Tebbit. In 1990 the former cabinet minister told the *Los Angeles Times* that "a large proportion of Asian immigrants would fail this test of British nationality."

It was, he said, an "interesting test". "Are you still harking back to where you come from — or supporting where you are?" A nation is a nation for what it shares in common, he said.

His views had not changed yesterday: "It could be applied to the English in Australia, the Spanish in America... it doesn't matter. The question is: 'Are

people integrated?' Do people wish to integrate into the society in which they live or do they wish to live in a ghetto."

Blacks should, he argued, follow the Jewish example. "The Jewish population has answered the question very clearly by working in the country they lived in and adapting its values. It integrates while maintaining its own identity. Others should look to the same idea."

The choice is simple, according to Lord Tebbit. "Do you deal with it [the 'problem'] by integrating or by going into a ghetto. People have to make up their own minds. If you look at athletics one sees mainly ethnic teams and I fancy that most of the blacks who are in athletics for Britain are proud of carrying that flag. The fact that you don't find terribly many white runners in many events, that's one of those things isn't it? Presumably they've selected the best. For me there are two criteria: one, do you wish to integrate. Two, do you select on merit. I'm in favour of integration and merit."

"If you say it [integration] hasn't happened yet, I'd point out that it was a long time after central and eastern Europeans arrived here before they found themselves in government coping with sneering idiots saying there were more Estonians than Estonians in Margaret Thatcher's government."

Scotland was free to support whoever it liked, and it said nothing of a British identity crisis, he said. "In football there isn't a United Kingdom team. Who you support after your first country is up to you. I happen to have been born in Middlesex. That doesn't mean to say I wouldn't have a view on whether Yorkshire or Lancashire should win the county championship."

Ainsley Harriot, the black celebrity chef, felt there would have been room for a few more black faces "just to balance it". He suspects a "little bit" of discrimination in selection does occur adding that it is no accident that blacks are more successful in individual than team sports. "I know Ian Wright for instance, and I talk to him about it. He said there's a real bonding between the lads themselves but it's upstairs at the at chairmanship level where they are very protective about what they want their club to be. That generation thinks that way perhaps."

And did Ainsley support England when he went to Wembley for the semi-finals? "Of course, I've been born here. There's no denying it." But when it comes to cricket it's different. "I originate from Jamaica and I'm very proud of my roots. My cousin is the [former] West Indian wicket-keeper Jeffrey Dujon, so I always support the West Indies in cricket."

Jobs
not at
risk
from
£3.50
wageBARRIE CLEMENT
Labour Editor

Despite ministerial protestations a national minimum wage would not cost jobs, according to a seminal investigation conducted by one of Britain's leading experts on the issue.

Employers expect that a future Labour government would fix the rate at around £3.50 an hour which would have no impact on total employment. Dr Fred Bayliss points out in a paper published by the Employment Policy Institute which declares itself "neutral" in the debate.

"Even if some sections of industry are severely affected by a NMW [national minimum wage] this does not necessarily imply the kind of 'devastation' of jobs predicted by some opponents of the policy," Dr Bayliss says.

Some ministers have talked of hundreds of thousands of job losses. Because of the paper's practical tone and the eminence of its author, a former chairman of the institute, the £3.50 figure — uprated in line with prices — is now likely to become something of a benchmark for Labour, in private at least.

The biggest unions are presently demanding £4.26 an hour, while the Trades Union Congress in a confidential doc-



Ian McCartney: Report 'vindicates Labour policy'

ument favours a figure nearer £3.65. The paper warns that employers believe the possible inflationary consequences of the sum are more significant than the effect on jobs, although the "price effects" should not be too severe.

Ian McCartney, a Labour employment spokesman, yesterday greeted the report as a vindication of its policy, while the Government may now be keen to emphasise the inflationary impact, however limited.

Dr Bayliss argues in the report, *Employers and a National Minimum Wage*, that the effect of the statutory minimum will vary markedly between different industries.

The sectors most affected — catering, textiles and industrial cleaning — will experience "accelerated restructuring". Many small companies will come under "severe pressure" and they will have to fight to survive.

In some cases prices will rise, although there will be "little or no impact" on jobs because surviving companies will take over contracts and offer "replacement" jobs, Dr Bayliss says.

Some companies argued that the minimum should be phased in rather than brought in as a "big bang". While Labour has indicated that the rate for 16- and 17-year-olds would be lower, employers also contended that adult trainees should be exempt from the full rate.

In interviews with 25 senior managers in the public and private sectors and officials of employers' organisations, Dr Bayliss found that pay differentials were another worry.

He suggests that "modesty should prevail" in the process of setting the rate or that a future Labour government might consider a more general form of pay policy to contain the inflationary impact.

The report suggests that the Low Pay Commission, envisaged by Labour as an advisory body to government, should be able to mount its own inquiries and be responsible for inspection and enforcement.

Dr Bayliss concludes: "The devil is in the detail. The commission must examine how the minimum will work at different levels. It is better to anticipate the potential pitfalls in advance than to have to react when those employers' hardest hit start to shout."

Polly Toynbee, page 15

A ONCE IN A
MILLENNIUM OFFER.UP TO 10%
GROSS p.a.

Abbey National's Millennium Bond offers you a fixed rate which rises every 6 months and guarantees you a return of up to 10% gross p.a. in the year 2000. All you need is a minimum investment of £10,000. What's more, you can choose to receive your interest either monthly or annually, whichever suits your needs.

But this is a limited offer, so don't delay. Call Abbey National Direct on 0800 100 801 Monday to Friday 9.00am to 5.00pm or Saturday 9.00am to 1.00pm, quoting reference A406A, or call into your nearest branch for further information.

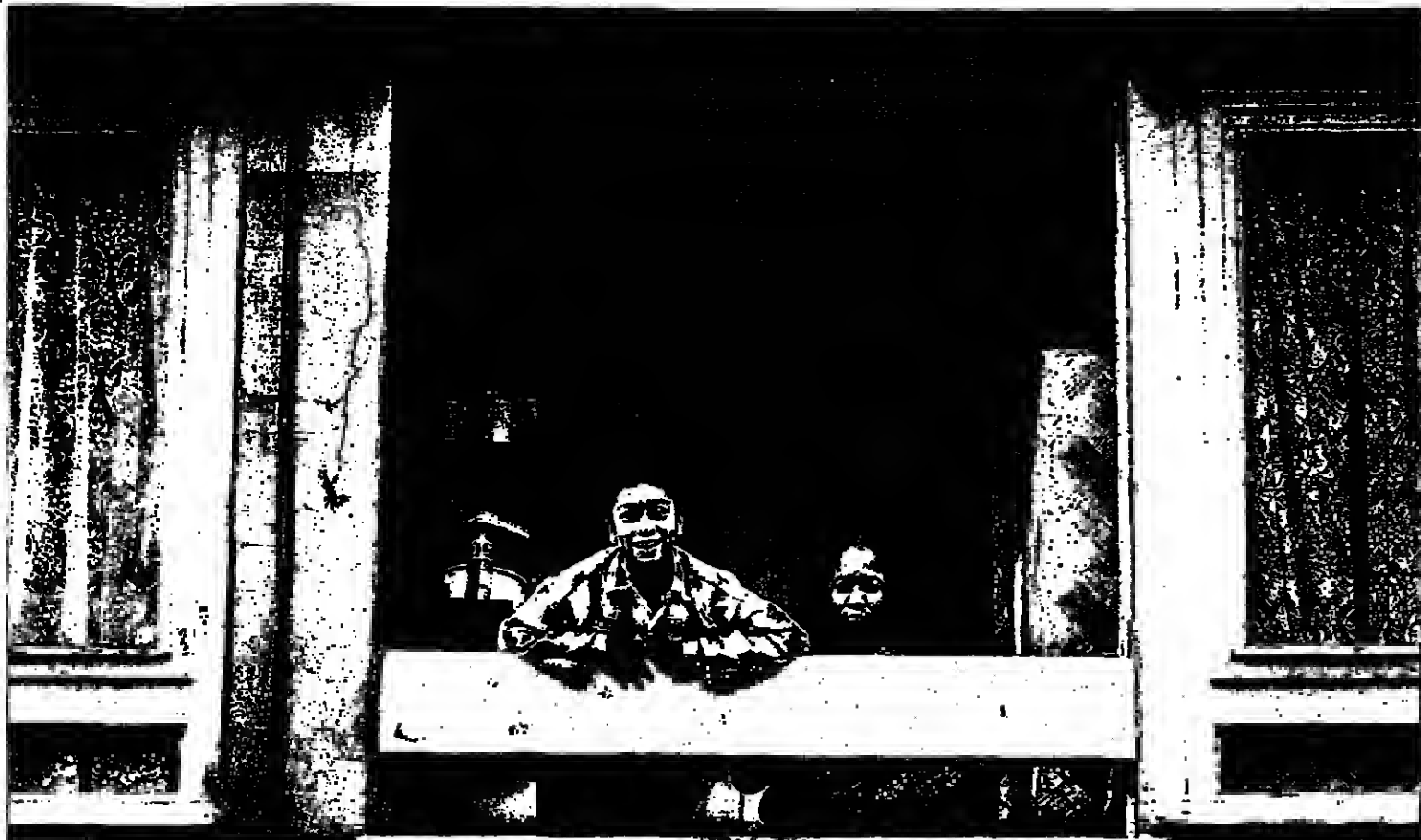


INVESTMENTS

K140

For your security and to assist us in improving our service to you we may record or monitor all calls to Abbey National Direct. This offer may be withdrawn at any time. No additional deposits will be accepted after the Bond is opened. No withdrawals or closures may be made from the Bond before 2.8.97. The Bond will mature on 1.6.2000. You may be able to register with us to receive interest gross, otherwise interest will be paid net of income tax at the prevailing rate. See leaflet for full conditions. Abbey National and the Umbrella logo are trademarks of Abbey National plc, Abbey House, Baker Street, London NW1 6XL, United Kingdom.

£10,000
£10,000



New horizon: Residents of bomb-damaged Lantern House, which is to be demolished and replaced by low-rise flats. Photograph: Kalpesh Lethiga

Bomb-blast estate to get £6m aid package

ROS WYNNE-JONES

The Docklands council estate badly damaged by the IRA bomb attack in February is to receive £6m in government aid.

Details of the aid emerged as Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, pledged financial assistance to help rebuild the centre of Manchester in the wake of last month's IRA bomb attack.

The Docklands explosion caused serious damage to parts of the Barbantyne Estate, near South Quay. The £6m will go towards demolishing Lantern House, a 1960s council block, and building 40 low-rise flats in its place. An additional 49 new homes will be built on nearby sites made available by the London Docklands Development Corporation.

The four lower blocks on the estate, which suffered considerable damage, will also benefit from the money, which has

been awarded by the Department of the Environment. In addition, a small garden is to be developed "in recognition of the courage of local residents".

In the days after the bomb, residents of the Isle of Dogs complained that government attention was centred on repairing damage to the commercial buildings at the expense of local people who had seen their homes wrecked.

David Curry, the Housing Minister, said: "This additional money fulfils the commitment we gave immediately following the bombing, that the necessary funding would be made available to tackle urgently the bomb damaged blocks and accelerate the existing Estate Action scheme." The money will bring total government support for the national Estate Action scheme, which aims to regenerate rundown estates, to £30m.

A majority of local residents have still received no compensation or assistance from the government for damage to personal possessions, however. A handful have been offered loans by the Department of Social Security, which most have had to turn down because they cannot afford repayments. Stephen Molyneux, a local councillor, said: "It is a pity that the DSS have not shown the same spirit towards bomb victims that the Department of the Environment have shown."

Campaigners in Manchester and Tower Hamlets have suggested a central fund to cover future bomb damage, but Mr Heseltine last week ruled out blanket help for bomb victims. Announcing a £50,000 donation to the Lord Mayor's appeal to help Manchester cope with immediate problems, he said he had to make it clear the Government could not introduce a "post-hoc" insurance scheme. "If I were to do that no [business] would ever insure again."

G7 urged to unite against terrorism

COLIN BROWN
Chief Political Correspondent

A plan to establish "centres of excellence" in combating terrorism is to be put to a meeting of ministers from the world's top seven developed countries by Michael Howard, the Home Secretary.

Mr Howard said yesterday he will also call for extradition to be improved between countries, and for terrorists to be denied refugee status at the meeting of G7 ministers to be held in the wake of the IRA bombings in Manchester and Osnaabrück, and the separate attack on a US base in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia.

Home Office officials said last night that the aim was to create a register so that countries can call on experts, such as Japanese security services who dealt with recent chemical attacks on their underground rail network by members of a religious cult.

The renewal of violence by the IRA is threatening to embarrass the Irish government, which takes over the presidency of the European Union today.

Andrew Hunter, chairman of the Tory backbench Northern Ireland committee, told Sky News that he would be urging the Prime Minister and Northern Ireland Secretary, Sir Patrick Mayhew, to consider the reintroduction of internment to combat the heightened threat from the IRA.

Mr Hunter admitted such a policy - which might involve internment of Sinn Féin members - could be counter-productive and added that the timing had to be right and there had to be public support for it. But he said: "I think you've got to say to yourself what is the lesser of evils: intruding, as some would argue, the rights of a minority, or protecting the majority against the threat of being killed or maimed by bombs."

The Irish Prime Minister,

John Bruton, and John Major are expected to intensify the security action against the IRA in the wake of the Osnaabrück attack, and the killing of a Garda special branch officer in the Republic.

British intelligence sources warned ministers before the mortar attack on the Osnaabrück base in Germany that the IRA is planning to mount a bombing campaign in another major British city.

Ministers believe the IRA may then seek to force Sinn Féin into the talks by calling a ceasefire. Mr Bruton made it clear, when he condemned the killings yesterday on the BBC's *Breakfast with Frost* programme, that the two governments would accept a ceasefire, but would require the Republicans to accept the six Mitchell principles, including renouncing violence, before Sinn Féin was admitted to talks.

The IRA's continuing campaign of violence was "utterly pointless and self-defeating", Mr Bruton said. "You will never unite people in any way by fighting, or by promoting fighting... That's something a six-year-old child understands, but unfortunately, the people who are pursuing this tactic don't understand."

He said Friday's assault on the Osnaabrück army base was "appalling, when you think about the number of soldiers and their families, who are engaged in a peace-keeping exercise in Europe, how many of them could have been killed by this mortar attack."

He went on: "It's obviously a continuation of the campaign of violence by the IRA, and it is utterly pointless."

"They used violence for 25 years, and all they did was bring hardship on everybody, but particularly on the people who have supported them. It is a completely useless and self-defeating campaign."

Irish plans, page 10

Being Irish in Britain, page 14

Message to Fisheries Minister, Rt Hon Tony Baldry MP.

Regarding industrial fishing for sandeels on the Wee Bankie off the Scottish coast and other areas of the North Sea.

"Recognizing the importance of protecting the marine environment and conserving fish feeding, spawning and nursery grounds, the following organizations and individuals call on the UK Government to ensure that urgent measures are taken to control industrial fishing in sensitive areas."

Alex Falconer, MEP

Arbroath Fishermen's Association

David Bellamy

Fife Fisherman's Association

The Fishermen's Association Limited

Fishermen's Mutual Association (Pittenweem)

Friends of the Earth

Greenpeace UK

Jonathon Porritt

Marine Conservation Society

Royal Society for the Protection of Birds

The Salmon and Trout Association

Scottish Wildlife Trust

Torry Rice, Southampton Oceanography Centre

The Wildlife Trusts (Royal Society for Nature Conservation)

World Wide Fund for Nature

If you also support this statement, please call the Greenpeace campaign information line on 0171 865 8252.

Or write to the Fisheries Campaign, Greenpeace, Canonbury Villas, London N1 2PN.

CAR INSURANCE

Looking for the **LOWEST** premium?

ATLAS

Exclusive Road Atlas **FREE** with every quote

PHONE **FREE** **0500 333 600**

TO QUALIFY FOR YOUR FREE ROAD ATLAS PLEASE QUOTE REF 5465

LINES ARE OPEN Mon-Fri 9am-5pm Sat 10am-4pm

DIAL DIRECT

هكذا من الاصل

news

Theory exam: Multiple-choice questions introduced today

First candidates sit written driving test

CLARE GARNER

From today, it will no longer be enough for learner drivers to show their examiner that they can drive. They will also have to prove that they know the theory by completing 35 multiple-choice questions.

The first candidates will today take the written test set by the Driving Standards Authority (DSA), and a week later, they will hear by post whether they have passed by getting at least 26 of the 35 questions right.

Until 1 January 1997, the practical test can still be taken first, but after that learners will

have to pass the written one, before booking for the driving part.

More than 3,500 candidates will take the written test - which costs £15 on top of the £28.50 fee for the old one - at 44 centres today and more than 8,000 will follow tomorrow.

There are over 60,000 bookings for the first fortnight and more than 88,000 for the first month.

In the most radical move in its 60-year history, the DSA has introduced the test in order to build up the "hazard-awareness skills" of young drivers. The 17- to 25-year-old age group is involved in 28 per cent of acci-

dents but accounts for only 16 per cent of all drivers.

However, a safety group warned yesterday that the new theory section, which replaces the Highway Code oral quiz, will not be enough substantially to reduce accidents involving young motorists.

A report from the Parliamentary Advisory Council for Transport Safety (PACT) called for a comprehensive package of measures to improve training, including giving instructors more say in when a candidate is ready to take the test.

The 40-minute written test consists of 35 questions which

have been selected at random from a list of 600, based on the Highway Code. They range from the medical effects of alcohol, car maintenance, basic first aid and the punishments for driving offences.

It will be held at 139 centres nationwide, and be given to all 1.7 million car, motorcycle, bus and lorry drivers who apply for licences each year.

The DSA believes learners will sail through the test as long as they "prepare carefully and apply common sense". A spokesman said yesterday: "We are anticipating that there will be a better pass rate for the written test than there is for the practical test which is only passed first time by about half the candidates."

The British School of Motoring, Britain's biggest driving instruction company, was less hopeful. In mock tests of nearly 500 candidates only 30 per cent achieved the 75 per cent pass rate required and just one scored 100 per cent.

How well do you know the Highway Code?

Are you a good driver?

Three questions from the new test:

1. You are involved in an accident and are unable to produce your insurance certificate. You must report the accident to the police within: a) 24 hours; b) 48 hours; c) 5 days; d) 14 days

2. How can you best control your vehicle when driving in snow? a) by driving slowly in a high

gear; b) staying in a lower gear and gripping the steering wheel; c) driving in first gear; d) keeping the revs high and slipping the clutch.

3. By mistake you go past your motorway exit. You should: a) carry on to the next exit; b) carefully reverse on the hard shoulder; c) reverse in the left hand lane; d) make a U-turn.

Answers: 1 a. 2 a. 3 a.



Maritime revival: Little Mint, an 83-year-old Brixham fishing smack restored by John Sheppard of Sussex, dredging for oysters in Swansea Bay at the weekend. The oyster beds have lain fallow for 50 years. Photograph: Rob Stratton

New Savings Rates from the Bristol & West.

EFFECTIVE 1ST JULY 1996 (unless otherwise stated).

† Effective 9th July 1996. †† Fixed with effect from 1st July 1996 until 31st December 1996.

ACCOUNT	AMOUNT INVESTED	GROSS RATE OF INTEREST PA* (VARIABLE)	NET PA**	ACCOUNT	AMOUNT INVESTED	GROSS RATE OF INTEREST PA* (VARIABLE)	NET PA**
INSTANT ACCESS DEPOSIT				PREMIER OPTION BOND††			
£100,000+	3.00%	2.40%		Fixed Rate Option paying interest monthly, Issue B.	£100,000+	5.08%	4.06%
£50,000+	3.00%	2.40%		£50,000+	5.08%	4.06%	
£25,000+	2.85%	2.28%		£25,000+	4.89%	3.91%	
£10,000+	2.55%	2.04%		£5,000+	4.65%	3.72%	
£5,000+	2.05%	1.64%					
£2,000+	1.80%	1.44%		PREMIER TWELVE			
£1,000+	1.60%	1.28%		Variable (Issue 1) and Fixed (Issue 3)	£100,000+	5.70%	4.56%
£500+	1.35%	1.08%		Rate Options paying interest annually.	£50,000+	5.65%	4.52%
£1+	0.20%	0.16%		£25,000+	5.65%	4.52%	
				£5,000+	5.65%	4.52%	
90 DAY NOTICE ACCOUNT				PREMIER TWELVE			
Interest paid annually.				Variable (Issue 1) and Fixed (Issue 3)	£100,000+	5.56%	4.45%
£100,000+	4.30%	3.44%		£50,000+	5.56%	4.45%	
£50,000+	4.15%	3.32%		£25,000+	5.51%	4.41%	
£25,000+	3.85%	3.08%		£10,000+	5.51%	4.41%	
£10,000+	3.35%	2.68%		£5,000+	5.51%	4.41%	
£5,000+	2.80%	2.24%					
£2,500+	2.50%	2.00%		PREMIER TESSA			
£500+	2.35%	1.88%		£5,000	5.75%		
				£5,000+	5.45%		
90 DAY NOTICE ACCOUNT				£500+	3.65%		
Interest paid monthly.							
£100,000+	4.22%	3.37%		PREMIER RESERVE BOND			
£50,000+	4.07%	3.26%		£1,000+	5.55%	4.44%	
£25,000+	3.78%	3.03%					
£10,000+	3.30%	2.64%		SECURE INVESTMENT ACCOUNT			
£5,000+	2.76%	2.21%		(Issue 4).	£2,000+	6.20%	4.96%
£2,500+	2.47%	1.98%					
£500+	2.33%	1.86%		CHARITY ACCOUNT			
				£1+	2.60%	2.08%	
ONE YEAR OPTION BOND DEPOSIT							
Variable (Issue 1) and Fixed (Issue 3)				FULLY PAID SHARE			
Rate Options paying interest annually.				(Rates also apply to Cheshunt Investment	£50,000+	2.18%	1.74%
£100,000+	5.70%	4.56%		Share, Cheshunt Clubs, Cheshunt Ex-Thrift	£25,000+	2.08%	1.66%
£50,000+	5.70%	4.56%		and Cheshunt Subs. Share, all no longer	£10,000+	1.79%	1.43%
£25,000+	5.65%	4.52%		available).	£5,000+	1.39%	1.13%
£10,000+	5.65%	4.52%			£2,000+	0.90%	0.72%
£5,000+	5.65%	4.52%			£500+	0.25%	0.20%
					£1+	0.20%	0.16%
ONE YEAR OPTION BOND DEPOSIT				SELECT			
Variable (Issue 1) and Fixed (Issue 3)				(No longer available).	£50,000+	2.20%	1.76%
Rate Options paying interest monthly.					£25,000+	2.10%	1.68%
£100,000+	5.56%	4.45%			£10,000+	1.80%	1.44%
£50,000+	5.56%	4.45%			£5,000+	1.40%	1.12%
£25,000+	5.51%	4.41%			£2,000+	0.90%	0.72%
£10,000+	5.51%	4.41%			£500+	0.25%	0.20%
£5,000+	5.51%	4.41%			£1+	0.20%	0.16%
TESSA TWO DEPOSIT				SPECIAL MONTHLY INCOME			
£5,000	5.75%			(No longer available) Rates also apply to	£50,000+	2.18%	1.74%
£5,000+	5.45%			High 30 Monthly Income, Cheshunt Instant	£25,000+	2.08%	1.66%
£3,000+	5.45%			Income, Better Option Bond Income Issue 1	£10,000+	1.79%	1.43%
£500+	3.65%			& 2, Overseas Monthly Income (1), No 1	£5,000+	1.39%	1.13%
				Income (1), Triple Bonus Monthly Income	£2,000+	0.90%	0.72%
PREMIER SAVER				(1), all no longer available.	£500+	0.25%	0.20%
An instant access account for investors					£1+	0.20%	0.16%
who limit their access over a 12 month				CHESHUNT SPECIAL 90 (CAPITAL)			
period (No withdrawals)				(No longer available) Rates also apply to	£50,000+	3.60%	2.88%
£100,000+	4.00%	3.20%		Cheshunt Special 90 (Gross) and Cheshunt	£20,000+	3.30%	2.64%
£50,000+	4.00%	3.20%		Charity 90, all no longer available.	£5,000+	2.30%	1.84%
£25,000+	3.85%	3.08%			£500+	1.90%	1.52%
£10,000+	3.55%	2.84%		CHESHUNT SPECIAL 90 INCOME			
£5,000+	3.05%	2.44%		(No longer available) Rates also apply to	£50,000+	3.54%	2.83%
£2,000+	2.80%	2.24%		Cheshunt Special 90 (Gross) and Cheshunt	£20,000+	3.25%	2.60%
£1,000+	2.60%	2.08%		Charity 90, all no longer available.	£5,000+	2.28%	1.82%
£500+	2.35%	1.88%			£500+	1.80%	1.51%
TESSA TWO DEPOSIT				BONUS BOND			
£5,000	5.75%			Issue 2 (No longer available).	£25,000+	5.20%	4.16%
£5,000+	5.45%				£10,000+	4.60%	3.76%
£1,000+	5.45%				£5,000+	4.20%	3.36%
£500+	3.65%			BONUS INCOME BOND			
				Issue 2 (No longer available).	£25,000+	5.08%	4.06%
PREMIER PLUS CAPITAL ISSUE 1					£10,000+	4.60%	3.68%
Three months notice required for					£5,000+	4.12%	3.30%
withdrawal. Rates also apply to				CHESHUNT TESSA			
Guaranteed Investment Account Issue 5				£1+	4.40%		
and Guaranteed Investment Account							
Extra Issue 11							
£100,000+	4.30%	3.44%		BALMORAL HIGH INTEREST ACCOUNT			
£50,000+	4.15%	3.32%		(No longer available) (Also Balmoral Fixed	£100,000+	4.00%	3.20%
£25,000+	3.85%	3.08%		Rate Bond Issue 1 and 2 and Balmoral	£50,000+	3.85%	3.08%
£10,000+	3.35%	2.68%		Limited Edition Bond).	£25,000+	3.80%	3.04%
£5,000+	2.80%	2.24%			£10,000+	3.60%	2.88%
£2,000+	2.50%	2.00%		BALMORAL MONTHLY INCOME ACCOUNT			
£500+	2.35%	1.88%		(No longer available) (Also Balmoral	£100,000+	3.93%	3.14%
				Limited Edition Bond (Monthly Income)).	£50,000+	3.78%	3.03%
PREMIER PLUS MONTHLY INCOME					£25,000+	3.74%	2.99%
Issue 1					£10,000+	3.45%	2.76%
Three months notice required for					£5,000+	2.62%	2.09%
withdrawal, and interest paid monthly.							
£100,000+	4.22%	3.37%					
£50,000+	4.07%	3.26%					
£25,000+	3.78%	3.03%					
£10,000+	3.30%	2.64%					
£5,000+	2.76%	2.21%					
£2,000+	2.47%	1.98%					
£500+	2.33%	1.86%					
PREMIER OPTION BOND							
Variable Rate Option paying interest six							
monthly, Issues A, B, C, D, E and F.							
£100,000+	4.90%	3.92%					
£50,000+	4.70%	3.76%					
£25,000+	4.45%	3.56%					
£10,000+	4.79%	3.83%					
£5,000+	4.60%	3.68%					
£500+	4.36%	3.49%					
PREMIER OPTION BOND							
Fixed Rate Option paying interest six							
monthly, Issue B.							
£100,000+	5.20%	4.16%					
£50,000+	5.20%	4.16%					
£25,000+	5.00%	4.00%					
£5,000+	4.75%	3.80%					

NOTICE FOR PREMIER OPTION BOND (ISSUE C) ACCOUNT HOLDERS

The Society is introducing revised Terms & Conditions to take effect from 1st August 1996. The purpose of this is to make Terms & Conditions easier for you to understand, and to clarify the circumstances in which future changes to Terms & Conditions may be made and when interest rates may be varied. A copy of the revised Terms & Conditions is available from any of the Society's branches or from Head Office.

BRISTOL & WEST BUILDING SOCIETY

BRISTOL & WEST BUILDING SOCIETY

Please contact your nearest branch or Head Office for further information. *Gross rates are variable and based on the rates shown and do not take account of deductions of income tax. If you are eligible to receive your interest without deduction of tax, you should request an Interest Payment Form which is available in all of the Society's branches. **Interest rates are shown as percentages per annum. The actual rate payable will be determined by the Society's Board of Directors. The actual rate payable will be determined by the Society's Board of Directors. The actual rate payable will be determined by the Society's Board of Directors.

Race for £2bn Nimrod contract enters last lap

COLIN BROWN
Chief Political Correspondent

British Aerospace is set to win a fierce lobbying battle at Westminster against GEC-Marconi, the British electronics giant, for a £2bn contract to replace the ageing fleet of 25 Nimrod maritime patrol aircraft.

Defence ministers rejected a last-minute appeal by GEC-Marconi for a 90-day delay with an offer to cut the price of their bid by £150m. "It looks like an admission of defeat," one Whitehall source said. "Winners don't cry foul." The decision is expected to go to BAe after a meeting next Thursday of the Overseas Policy and Defence (OPD) Cabinet committee chaired by John Major.

The battle has involved black propaganda, splits between Tory MPs, hints that the decision could help some Tory constituencies, and a desperate lobbying campaign to convince MPs that one project is more "British" than the other.

Intense lobbying has been going on for Orion 2000 - the bid

involving GEC electronics and planes supplied by the United States company, Lockheed; and Nimrod 2000 - the "cheap option" of refurbishing the old aircraft by BAe with new electronics by the US Boeing corporation.

BAe hired Hugh Colver, the former chief press officer at Conservative Central Office, to lobby MPs discreetly. GEC-Marconi hired APCO UK, as public relations advisers, and installed simulators at an office block near the Commons to demonstrate the technology to more than 50 MPs.

Both sides competed with claims of the number of British jobs they would create. One side pointed out that two Cabinet ministers with GEC-Marconi plants nearby their constituencies - the Foreign Secretary, Malcolm Rifkind, and Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade - were both on the OPD committee.

Orion 2000 claimed that it would provide 7,000 jobs in the United Kingdom; 50 per cent of the aircraft would come from UK firms and the Mission System Avionics - the electronic

"brains" - would be wholly from UK industry.

Nimrod 2000 claimed that 76 per cent of the work would go to British companies securing 10,000 high quality jobs. BAe has plants all over Britain, with jobs in north-west Lancashire constituencies - including Wyre, held by Keith Mans, the chairman of the Tory backbench defence committee.

Black propaganda circulating at Westminster included claims by MPs supporting the Nimrod 2000 bid that the GEC on-board computers would not communicate with each other - a charge totally denied by GEC.

Orion 2000 supporters rubbished the BAe bid proposing to refurbish the old Nimrods, which have been in service since 1969. They said it could be put into service again in 2001 with a lifespan of 25 years.

But the final decision may rest on the price. Nimrod 2000 is cheaper, but Orion 2000 offered a cash-back deal of £2.5m for the next 30 export orders, giving the Ministry of Defence £4bn on exports of 250 planes.

STROUD & SWINDON
BUILDING SOCIETY

INTEREST RATES

The following interest rates on our currently marketed investment accounts become effective from 2nd July 1996.

Product	Balance	Gross % rate	Gross % C.A.R. rate	Net % rate
TESSA	with Annual Interest	5.70		4.56
	with Monthly Income	5.56	5.70	4.45
BONUS 90*	£50,000+	5.40		4.32
90 day	£25,000 to £49,999	5.10		4.08
(Annual Interest rates)	£10,000 to £24,999	4.90		3.92
	£5,000 to £9,999	4.75		3.80
* Rates shown include annual bonus (1.00% gross, 0.80% net)				
60 DAY ACCOUNT	£50,000+	5.35		4.28
	(Annual interest rates)	£25,000 to £49,999	5.00	4.00
		£10,000 to £24,999	4.75	3.80
		£5,000 to £9,999	4.00	3.20
CLASSIC GOLD	£50,000+	3.75		3.00
	Instant Access	£25,000 to £49,999	3.55	2.84
	(Annual interest rates)	£10,000 to £24,999	3.20	2.56
		£5,000 to £9,999	2.70	2.16
		£500 to £4,999	2.15	1.68
	£5 to £499	0.75		0.60
NEW GENERATION ACCOUNT	£5 to £499	1.70		1.36
	(for £500 and over, rates as for Classic Gold Annual)			
TREASURER'S ACCOUNT	£50,000+	3.15		2.52
	(Annual Interest rates)	£25,000 to £49,999	2.70	2.16
		£10,000 to £24,999	2.20	1.76
		£5,000 to £9,999	1.85	1.56
		£500 to £4,999	1.70	1.36
	£5 to £499	0.25		0.20

Battle of the Somme commemorations: Veterans pay respects to comrades slaughtered 80 years ago as Portillo stays away

'What a waste. The biggest mistake ever'

PAUL TYSON

Veterans of the Battle of the Somme, where 200,000 British soldiers were killed in a single day, returned yesterday to the fields in which they fought, some for the first time in 80 years.

Five men who survived the carnage, the youngest is 100, visited the British cemetery at Arras and the battlefields where the cream of an entire generation was wiped out on 1 July 1916.

At 7.30 that morning after the German lines had been pounded for a week with one and a half million shells, more than 420,000 troops, most of them British, went over the top to launch the bloodiest battle in military history.

The Allies vastly outnumbered the Germans yet by nightfall the British alone had suffered 57,470 dead and wounded. The Germans lost just 185.

Most of the dead were volunteers who answered Kitchener's call to arms fight for their country and were sent into battle with a bare minimum of training.

Donald Hodge, 101, from East Storrington, west Sussex, said: "The last thing I thought about before the war was joining the army, the old regulars were a bunch of scallywags. But when the call came, it seemed the right thing to do."

"We had no uniforms or any equipment for months, and we lived in tents because there were no huts to put us up in."

"My memories of the Somme are very mixed. Everything was haywire. We were playing it by ear. The German Chiefs of Staff were cleverer than ours

and they had deep dug-outs so most of our bombardment had no effect."

"The first week of July was a wholesale slaughter, no end of my friends died. The bodies were piled up high."

"We were young and fit and we took it all in our stride. Whatever the orders were, we just obeyed them, that's how we were then."

Mr Hodge, who was in the Royal West Kent Regiment, added: "I feel it is a duty to come back. I must come back for the sake of my friends who lie here. It could so easily have been me instead of them."

"We were very, very close, we trained together, we marched together, we fought together, we were closer than brothers but you learned to lose friends without unduly grieving, otherwise we would have gone mad."

Mike Lally, 102, from Salford, Greater Manchester was visiting his older brother James' grave yesterday for the first time. "That's the reason I came over this time, to find my brother's grave," he said.

"Our mother used to visit it every year but she never would tell us where it was. She never used to talk about it."

The First World War Veterans' Association, who brought Mr Lally and 12 other veterans back to France, traced the grave through the War Graves Commission and Mr Lally held onto his son's arm and broke down in tears as he stood before the simple white headstone.

Afterwards he said: "All them years I had never seen it." Looking around at the rows of neat white gravestones in the British cemetery near Arras on the Somme, he added: "All

them lives. What a waste. It was the biggest mistake ever. They threw so many men into that battle, it was a complete waste."

Norman Booth, 100, from Golcar, near Huddersfield a 1914 volunteer with the Duke of Wellington's Regiment, said: "They're shocking, my memories of the Somme. I thought it was a disgrace that they should lose all those men in one day."

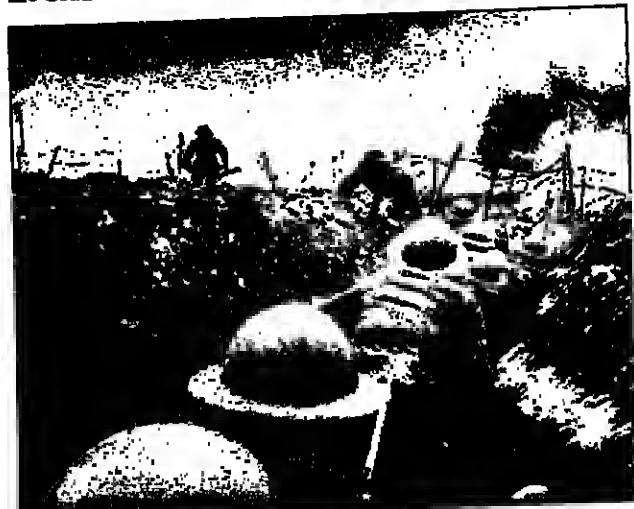
Mr Booth, awarded the DSM and Bar, added: "To see all those lads slaughtered in that swamp, it broke my heart. It made me very angry. It still does."

The years have clearly done nothing to assuage the anger felt by many of the veterans who saw so many of their contemporaries perish. Tom Brennan, 100, a gunner, who now lives in a Liverpool nursing home, said of the first day of the Somme: "I went up there that evening and you could hardly see the ground for the dead."



Call of duty: Donald Hodge, 101, of Seaford, Sussex, will be in France today for the 80th anniversary of the Somme

Photograph: John Connor



Over the top: The first day of the Battle of the Somme cost 57,470 British lives. The Germans lost only 185

Ministers attacked for 'poor show'

The Government and Ministry of Defence were under fire from veterans for their "poor show" at today's service to commemorate the Battle of the Somme, writes Paul Tyson.

Both John Major and Michael Portillo, Secretary of State for Defence were said to be "too busy" to attend the ceremony in Thiepval this morning where Somme veterans will gather to remember the dead of the bloodiest battle in British military history.

Baroness Thatcher told the *Sunday Telegraph* that she found it "completely incredible that a

British defence minister should not personally represent the armed forces". Instead, Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, will represent the Government.

Ted Rimmer, 97, who fought in France with the King's Liverpool Regiment from 1917, said: "I think they should have sent someone important, the Home Secretary made it to Dover to see us off so why couldn't he make it over here?"

"It is a unique occasion isn't it? I think it's a poor show. I can't say I'm angry, I'm more disappointed than angry."

Steve Goodwin, Chairman of the First World War Veterans Association said: "To the Veterans themselves it is more important that their friends and families are around them."

"We would agree that if the Government are going to send somebody it should be somebody important. We have rescued a lot of these men from obscurity and a lot of them will be going back to live on their own or in nursing homes and for one or two in poverty."

"Those are the matters that should be addressed rather than whether we get a hand-

shake or two from a member of the Government."

Others were more forgiving. Donald Hodge, aged 101, said: "We didn't ask for any rewards at the time and we're not going to ask for them now."

I have some sympathy with what Baroness Thatcher said but we don't expect a fuss."

Told the next official anniversary was in 2016, he added: "Well, I always live in hope."

An Ministry of Defence spokesman said: "Apparently it is usual that only the 50th, 75th and 100th anniversaries are official commemorations."



Two things you're guaranteed to see every day in the Arizona sky.

From 1st July, British Airways are introducing a daily London Gatwick-Phoenix-San Diego service. For more information, see your travel agent or call 0345 222111.

BRITISH AIRWAYS

The world's favourite airline

From 27th October, flights are 4 times a week. All flights go to Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport.

news

Safety worry as 'no-frill' airlines take off in UK

The recent passengers' revolt on two Excalibur Airlines flights and the subsequent liquidation of the airline has raised safety fears over the cheap end of the air-travel market.

There is unease in some quarters over the launch of no-frills cheap airlines such as Easyjet and Debonair which offer much cheaper fares than their more conventional rivals. On Debonair, for example, you can fly to Barcelona for £99 return, including airport tax. Easyjet offers £29 one-way fares to Glasgow (although there are few seats at that price and, depending on availability, you have to pay £39, £49, or £59).

The airlines use older aircraft, leased rather than owned, and have done away with such extra costs as food and drink. Costs are kept to a minimum by having no tickets and computerised booking systems which require few staff.

Charter firms have offered cheap fares for decades, but the entry of these new no-frills carriers into the scheduled market is a new test for the Civil Aviation Authority. Some critics argue that the authority should not be responsible for both commercial promotion and regulation of the airline industry.

The CAA argues that there is no problem with safety. It points to the fact that airlines operating out of the UK have

Christian Wolmar reports on the arrival of cut-price carriers

to be licensed, the aircraft have to have certificates of airworthiness and the maintenance firms have to be CAA approved.

There is no equivalent in the aviation industry to "flagging out", the use by shipping companies of flags of convenience, which allow them to use cheaper foreign crews. Pilots for British airlines have to be licensed by the CAA and are subject to regular fitness tests. The CAA points out that the same rules are applied whether the airline is Easyjet or British Airways. In fact, there is some irony in the fact that BA was the company that maintained Excalibur's two ageing DC10 aircraft.

Both Easyjet and Debonair use old aircraft (Boeing 737 and BAe 146s respectively) but the two are long established with good safety records. While there is some evidence that older aircraft are less safe, the difference is marginal.

Indeed, while the CAA says it treats all airlines equally, there is some suspicion from within the industry that Excalibur had been targeted for special attention because of concern over its financial viability. While the safety incidents may have contributed to its

collapse, the main reason appears to be fierce competition on its principal route, charter flights to Florida, which has an enormous amount of overcapacity.

Despite the CAA's lack of concern, some air industry watchers are worried. Jeff Gazzard, one of the leaders of the campaign against a second runway at Manchester Airport, accepts that the CAA's procedures are generally tight but feels that they have a confused regulatory role. "The CAA has a duty to both promote the air industry and to ensure it is safe. There can be a conflict there."

Mr Gazzard points to the similar situation in the USA where the new no-frills company, ValuJet, grew very fast as a rival to established airlines and within less than three years of its creation operated 50 jets across the US. The crash in Florida in May which killed 110 people was probably not the airline's fault as it appears to have been the result of a fire caused by inflammable cargo in the hold, but it led to an investigation of the airline which revealed serious deficiencies in maintenance procedures and the subsequent grounding of the airline.



Looking for clues: Investigators searching the area of Everglades swampland where the ValuJet plane crashed in May, killing 110 people

TEC chiefs attack benefits system

ANTHONY BEVINS
Political Editor

The social security system acts as a deterrent to training and "rewards passivity", ministers have been told by leaders of the government-sponsored Training and Enterprise Councils.

Stephen Byers, Labour's employment spokesman, said yesterday that he had received a leaked copy of a TEC briefing paper for a meeting between their national council and James Paice, the Employment minister, earlier this month.

The paper said: "Whilst there have been improvements in the performance of programmes such as Training for Work, TECs are aware that there remain a number of barriers to tackling the problems of particularly the long-term unemployed."

It said that those barriers included: "The operation of the benefits system which acts as a disincentive to individuals to undertake training and rewards passivity."

The TEC national council told the minister that there was "insufficient opportunity for meaningful work experience, which unemployed people say they want".

It also claimed there was a lack of effective guidance and advice; no integration of resources; and a "lack of a strategic approach at national and local level which means that re-

sources are dissipated and efforts duplicated."

Presenting an analysis of government training programmes that could have been written by Labour or the Liberal Democ-

The council wanted a more effective and innovative use of existing resources, and a "contract" between employers, the Government and the unemployed.

"The contract must be one based on entitlement through a clear and deliverable guarantee of a job with skills, in return for active engagement on the part of the unemployed," the council said.

Mr Byers said yesterday: "This represents a damning indictment of the Government's whole approach to the unemployed."

It is clear that the benefits system presently acts as a disincentive for individuals to undertake training.

"What is needed is a comprehensive strategy under which the benefits system actively encourages the unemployed to take up training opportunities and update their skills."

The TEC paper also carries a warning about the social consequences of doing nothing about the problem, saying: "TECs recognise that however well the economy performs in the years to come, there are likely to be persistent high levels of long-term unemployment for the foreseeable future."

"Associated with this is the risk of the development of an underclass that will be unable to benefit from economic growth and improving employment prospects when they occur."

Danish fleet retreats in fish battle

A renewed battle between Greenpeace protesters and Danish fishermen ended last night after the Danes appeared to pull out of waters off Scotland's east coast.

According to Greenpeace, the trawlermen decided to withdraw while a complaint to Scottish fishery protection officials that they were being prevented from fishing was dealt with.

Spokesman Phil Aikman, aboard the Greenpeace vessel *MV Sirius*, said nine fishing boats had left an area 25 miles north-east of Dunbar, and protesters were checking to see if they had moved on to other fishing grounds.

The battle, over allegations that foreign trawlers were "hoovering" the sea-bed, resumed earlier yesterday when Greenpeace returned to the area from which activists said they had been chased on Friday by Danish boats fishing for sand-eels.

Leading environmental groups have joined forces with fishermen's organisations in a call for action on industrial fishing. In a statement in today's *Independent*, the alliance urges Tony Blair, the Fisheries Minister, to protect the marine environment on the West Bank off the Scottish east coast and other areas of the North Sea.

The statement says: "Recognising the importance of protecting the marine environment and conserving fish feeding, spawning and nursery grounds, we call on the UK government to ensure that urgent measures are taken to control industrial fishing in sensitive areas."

The advertisement coincides with an eight-week battle between Greenpeace and a fleet of Danish vessels off Scotland's east coast in which protesters have been trying to stop the fishing of sand-eels.

Dolphins, Minke whales and seabirds depend on these sand-eels. This area is their feeding ground," said Chris Rose, of Greenpeace. "The vessels also catch baby haddock and cods which they don't need anyway. Fishermen are dependent upon these fish. So apart from endangering the environment, these vessels are also threatening the business of fishermen." He added that companies could use vegetable oil instead of the fish oil they retrieved from the sand-eels.

The alliance also includes Friends of the Earth, RSPCA, The Wildlife Trust, Alex Falconer MER and several Scottish fishing associations.

A naval fishery protection vessel patrolling the area had earlier sought an assurance from the demonstrators that they would keep two miles clear of the Danish boats, said Mr Aikman. But activists replied that they intended to continue "non violent direct action".

Before the Danes moved out, Greenpeace said it had two inflatables trying to prevent any vessel from setting its nets, but the *Sirius* stayed two miles away from the inflatables.

Greenpeace claims that legal "hoover-type" fishing, mainly by Danes, threatens a major feeding area for commercial fish stocks, birds and dolphins.

Airports win their wings for food

Airports now offer some of Britain's best food, according to a new report by Egon Ronay. The food critic says some of the dishes served at Heathrow, Gatwick and Edinburgh rank with the finest available in London.

According to the report: "Breakfast at Harry Ramsden's fish and chip restaurant at Heathrow is as good breakfast at Claridge's."

The fruit slice at Metro in Gatwick south terminal compares with the pastries at the Café Royal.

■ Doughnuts at the Upper Crust in Edinburgh are as tasty as doughnuts at Harvey Nichols. More than four years ago the British Airports Authority commissioned Mr Ronay to raise the standard of food and catering at its seven airports.

Inspectors test the quality of all food and drink at the BAA's 130 restaurants and snack bars at least once a month, and Mr Ronay says there has been a steady improvement in the quality of catering.

Earlier this year he compared

food and drink at Heathrow, Amsterdam, Paris and Frankfurt and said the British airport was streets ahead. "These exceptional results are an indication that the sustained effort of four-and-a-half years has borne fruit," he said. "The majority of the 130 restaurants have improved remarkably."

Catering outlets are given marks for quality, service and style under the testing system. The best earn an "exceptional" mark of three chef hats for quality which they display.

Mr Ronay yesterday called for managers at restaurants such as McDonald's and Little Chef's personally to taste food before they offered it to the public. Mass catering was probably the only industry where a final quality check before sale was not mandatory, he said.

Writing in a new brochure to be available at airports, he said: "Some catering bosses on top wear blinkers made of balance sheets. It's the management who must make the quality check, not the public."

Direct Line can help make your savings grow.

	£500-£2,499	£2,500-£4,999	£5,000-£9,999	£10,000-£24,999	£25,000-£49,999	£50,000-£99,999
Direct Line Instant Access Account	4.50%	4.50%	4.75%	5.50%	5.65%	5.75%
Halifax Solid Gold (90 Day Notice)	3.05%	3.05%	3.35%	4.10%	4.60%	4.85%
Woolwich Premier 90 (90 Day Notice)	N/A	N/A	3.50%	4.15%	5.00%	5.25%
Yorkshire Building Society Key 90 Plus	N/A	N/A	N/A	4.20%	4.65%	5.15%

All rates are gross. Direct Line rates correct at 1st July 1996. Other rates shown are correct at 26th June 1996 and may be subject to change.

Are your savings growing too slowly? Then you should be saving with Direct Line. Take a look at the table and you'll see that our rates are higher than these building society 90 day accounts. What's more, with Direct Line you don't have to give 90 days notice because we offer instant access. So if you want more money for your money you know who to call.

0181 667 1121

LONDON

0161 833 1121

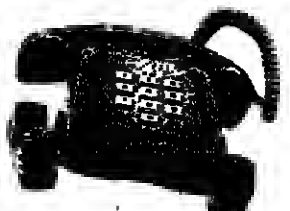
MANCHESTER

0141 221 1121

GLASGOW

CALL ANYTIME 8am to 8pm Monday to Friday and 9am to 5pm Saturday. Please quote ref. IND13

Direct Line is a member of the Direct Line Financial Services Limited, 200, St Vincent Street, Glasgow, G2 8SP, a member of the Deposit Protection Scheme. Payments under the Banking Act 1987 (for overseas). Payments under the scheme are limited to 90% of a depositor's total deposits subject to a maximum payment to any one depositor of £10,000 (or £20,000 if covered by the scheme). Further details of the scheme are available on request. The gross rate is the rate paid without the deduction of income tax. All rates shown are subject to variation and are based on annual payments of interest. For your added security, all telephone calls will be recorded and the recording kept secure. We may also monitor telephone calls with the aim of improving our service to you. Direct Line and the red telephone on wheels are the trade marks of Direct Line Insurance plc and used with the permission of Direct Line Insurance plc.



DIRECT LINE
SAVINGS

Russian election run-off: Doubts over his health prompt president to step back into limelight

Yeltsin takes a tough stance to woo voters

TONY BARBER
Moscow

After disappearing from sight on the eve of Russia's presidential election, Boris Yeltsin sought to dispel doubts about his health yesterday with a lengthy interview full of calculated appeals to both nationalist and liberal voters.

The interview, published by the Interfax news agency three days before Wednesday's second round of voting in the presidential elections, was notable for the tough line taken by the President on relations with Nato, the Baltic states and Japan. Warning Nato not to expand its influence over Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, Mr Yeltsin said: "To anyone who has doubts, I want to say that Russia is not going to leave the Baltic, and we will strengthen and develop our military base in Baltiisk [in the Kaliningrad enclave]. Peter the Great did not open a window to Europe and reach the Baltic region just for us to board it up."

He also warned against attempts to change the status of the Turkish-controlled straits joining the Black Sea and the Mediterranean, saying: "Russia will react strongly to attempts to turn the Black Sea into yet

another bridgehead for the Nato fleet and non-Black Sea states." In what looked like an overtone to nationalist voters in the Russian Far East, he said Russia rejected Japan's claims to the Kurile Islands, occupied by Soviet forces at the end of the Second World War.

He told Interfax that once the election was over he would make his first visit as President to the Kuriles. Such statements, stressing Russia's role as a great power, appeared to be aimed at Russians who voted in the first round last month for Alexander Lebed, the retired general who later received two powerful national security posts in the presidential administration, or for Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, the ultra-nationalist.

But Mr Yeltsin also took care to woo supporters of Grigory Yavlinsky, the liberal economist, saying he should play an important part in forming the next government.

The President was last seen in public on 26 June, when he greeted military academy graduates in the Kremlin and toasted them with a glass of vodka. His campaign team attributed his subsequent absence to a busy schedule of speeches and interviews which caused him to lose his voice.

Gennady Zyuganov, his Communist opponent on Wednesday, tried to extract maximum capital from Mr Yeltsin's withdrawal from the public stage. "At 65, after two serious heart attacks, you can't be in good health," he said.

Adding to the atmosphere of pre-election confusion, Mr Lebed announced yesterday that he wanted to recreate the vice-presidency in Russia - a job that Mr Yeltsin abolished in 1993 after its then incumbent, Alexander Rutskoy, participated in an armed uprising against him.

Mr Lebed, who clearly sees himself as Mr Yeltsin's natural successor, said: "We need this post and a person who would assume constitutional powers and take political and even military decisions."

Eleven foreigners were expelled and 28 Russian citizens were arrested on spying charges last year, AP reports. President Yeltsin said that, in 1995, Russia's security services thwarted 67 attempts to pass secret information, presumably to foreign intelligence organisations.

"Eleven agents of foreign intelligence services who had worked under the roofs of their embassies were caught red-handed and ousted from Russia," the President told Interfax.



Ahead of the times: A Yeltsin supporter proclaims his allegiance at an election rally in Moscow; the second round of voting takes place on Wednesday. Photograph: AFP

Plain-speaking son of a rough Russian city

Helen Womack visits Tula, the adopted town of General Alexander Lebed (below)

Tula — "Anyone who doubts that Russia has her own special path should try travelling on our roads," said the nationalist retired general Alexander Lebed during his election campaign.

Indeed, the road to Tula is strewn with fairy lights to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the founding of Russia's notorious hit-and-run traffic police. But directional signs are few and far between, and a mere 100 miles south of the capital, you can easily lose yourself on roads that start out covered with asphalt and quickly deteriorate into dirt tracks.

General Lebed, Tula's adopted son, came third in the first round of the presidential election and now plays a pivotal role in deciding the future of the country. Nationwide, General Lebed took nearly 15 per cent of the vote on the 16 June, but Tula gave him an impressive 25 per cent. This was because of his long association with the city, famous for manufacturing arms and samovars.

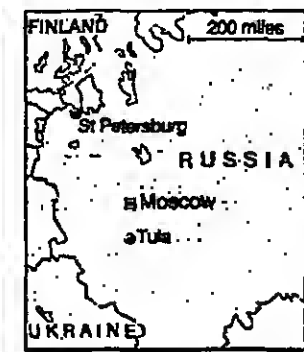
Alexander Lebed was born in 1950 in the region of the Don Cossacks, but, after serving in Afghanistan, he came to Tula to command the paratroop division which is based here. Last December, he was elected to the State Duma as Tula's constituency MP.

The Tula region, where the author Leo Tolstoy had his estate, stands halfway between Moscow, which has benefited most from President Yeltsin's market reforms, and the "black-earth" farming zone running down to the Ukrainian border, where the Communist leader Gennady Zyuganov, can count on his strongest support.

Here, General Lebed's philosophy of economic freedom but strict law and order appears to have found a particular resonance. The paratroopers of Tula have voted en masse for their former commander, who is respected in the army for his



professionalism and plain talking. But many civilians also chose him because they believed he offered a third way between the anarchy of Mr Yeltsin's rule and the defeat of retreat towards Communism. The Yeltsin years have hardly changed the face of Tula, which still looks like any one of a hundred Soviet cities with its regional administration block and statue of Lenin in the cen-



tral square. A few kiosks selling low quality imported goods are the only achievement of four years of capitalism. Few, in any case, can afford to shop there. "Conversion has been very patchy," says Konstantin Leonov, deputy editor of the local newspaper *Molodot Komunar*, who combines his journalistic work with acting as General Lebed's spokesman in the region.

"The workers in the arms factories used to be the elite of the working class. They have not taken kindly to making pots and pans for lower wages."

Another category of Lebed supporters are women, frightened by the crime wave which has accompanied the freeing of the market. It is no secret that guns can be bought at the back doors of Tula's factories. Mafia gangsters come here to arm themselves. The city is, in the current Russian slang, "krut" (rough).

Fear of crime prompted Antonina Vladimirovna to vote for General Lebed in the first round and she will heed his call to support Mr Yeltsin now.

"Lebed is a really honest man. It's hard to trust anyone in politics but I do trust him," she declared, as she presided over the samovar in the station buffet. But General Lebed has lost

some support, even among his paratroopers. "I consider that he has betrayed us," said a paratroop major, Vyacheslav. Pressed to say why, he said he thought the general had "taken on a burden he can't manage. How can you fight crime when the whole population is impoverished? Putting poor people behind bars is not the solution." He would vote for neither Mr Yeltsin nor Mr Zyuganov.

Evidently what had really upset the major was General Lebed's alliance with Mr Yeltsin, who he could not forgive for the war in Chechnya.

"I have sent my kids into that meat grinder," he said before abruptly breaking off our conversation. For many Russians - and not only Communists - the Kremlin leader remains unpalatable. The odds are on his victory in the second round of the presidential elections on Wednesday. But it is not yet a foregone conclusion.

SIGNIFICANT SHORTS

Costas Simitis, the man who took over from Andreas Papandreu as Greek Prime Minister six months ago, consolidated his grip on power yesterday when he was elected leader of the ruling socialist party, Pasok, at the end of a bitterly contested party congress.

Mr Simitis had to grapple not only to win the support of the 5,000 delegates present, but also to overcome the emotional impact of Mr Papandreu's death a week ago. The 60-year-old premier had been an outspoken critic of the absolute authority that Mr Papandreu wielded over both party and government, in complete contrast to his rival for the leadership, the staunch Papandreu loyalist Akis Ioannidis.

In the end, Mr Simitis carried around 55 per cent of the congress - enough to assert greater authority over government policy after six months of virtual paralysis, but too slim a margin to ensure party unity from now until the general election which must be called within the next 16 months. His victory was likely to please Western governments who see him as the best man to bring Greece closer to Europe and patch up the country's perennial disputes with its neighbours, especially Turkey. *Andrew Gumbel*

The shadow of outgoing President Joaquín Balaguer hovered over yesterday's Dominican Republic election as voters chose between two candidates in a second-round run-off. Thanks to the machinations of the octogenarian Mr Balaguer, the man who finished a distant second in the first round on 16 May, Leonel Fernández of the Dominican Liberation Party, may find himself president-elect today.

Mr Fernández finished seven points behind José Francisco Peña Gómez of the Dominican Revolutionary Party in the first round, with Mr Balaguer's own candidate a distant third. The two-man run-off was called because Mr Peña Gómez fell short of 50 per cent of the vote.

Claiming that Mr Peña Gómez, who is black, is of neighbouring Haitian origin, Mr Balaguer then overturned decades of enmity with the Liberation Party and called on his own supporters to vote for Mr Fernández. That could swing the vote in his favour. Mr Peña Gómez says the deal would effectively make Mr Fernández a puppet of Mr Balaguer, who is to hand over power next month. *Phil Davies*

President Bill Clinton led memorial services for 19 "quiet American heroes" killed by a bomb in Saudi Arabia, and urged mourners to put aside anger at the attackers to honour the victims. "These men represented the best of America, and they gave America their best," Mr Clinton said.

With 11 wounded victims of the blast, some of them in wheelchairs or on stretchers, given front-row places of honour, Mr Clinton led public mourning for the loss of those "we will remember... as patriots".

On Saturday, 43 wounded United States airmen who survived last week's blast in Dhahran were brought to Eglin Air Force Base, many of them on stretchers or in wheelchairs. Authorities have been reassessing security procedures in the wake of the bombing, which had the force of about 1400 kg of explosives. *Reuters - Eglin Air Force Base*

At least 18 people were killed and 10 wounded in Medellín, Colombia, when gunmen opened fire near a bus station.

Several armed attackers in two vehicles apparently shot indiscriminately toward people near the station, located in the city's Belén neighbourhood.

The massacre was the worst single attack in recent years in Medellín, a city of two million that is frequently hit by both drug and rebel-related violence. *AP - Medellín*

A wolf believed to have killed at least 18 children over the past two months has been shot dead by authorities in northern India. The wolf was one of a pack of four spotted by police and marksmen hunting for the mysterious child-killer, which has terrorised a large section of Uttar Pradesh state.

Authorities and residents had described the killer variously as a hyena, wolf and as deranged criminals looking for kidneys.

Some villagers described the murderer as a man-like beast who drove a white van, looked like a pig and could fly. *Reuters - New Delhi*

Renewing your home insurance in July or August?

If you're 50 or over, just see how much you could save with Saga - call us NOW

You will know how expensive home insurance can be - think of it, if you are aged 50 or over you can benefit from SAGA Home Insurance - a superior home-owners insurance that is only available to mature, responsible people like you.

SAGA Home Insurance can offer you genuine savings over other policies, while giving you cover that fully protects your home and possessions.

The Saga Price Promise: If you find another comparable policy at a lower price within 2 months of taking out SAGA Home Insurance, we will refund you the difference.

SAGA
Services Ltd

Saga Services Ltd, FREEPOST "31"
Maidenhead, Berkshire, RG1 1LZ

Saga Services Ltd would like to send you information about services provided by other Saga companies and may pass details to these companies to enable them to do so

And why not ask us about our competitive MOTOR INSURANCE



- Insurance cover is comprehensive and low cost.
- Discounts for home security.
- Free pen with your quotation.

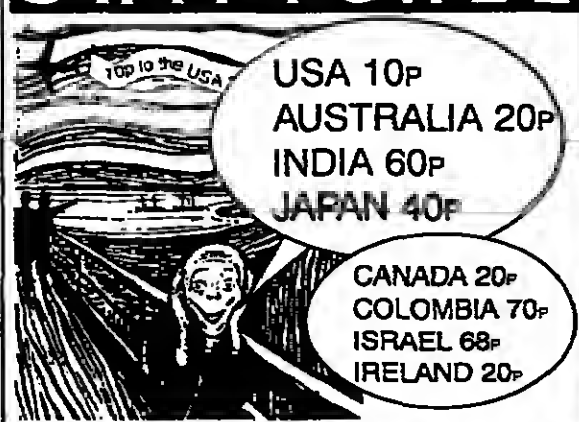
Call us today

For your free no obligation quote simply call us on the number below. We will be pleased to answer any questions you have on SAGA Home Insurance.

0800 414 525
ext.3518

Lines open Monday to Friday
9am - 6pm, Saturdays 9am - 1pm

SWIFTCALL



USA 10p per min

Swiftcall's easy instant connection From home, office, hotel, and public pay phone even from your mobile

Call now
0800 279 0800
(outside UK +44 171 488 2001)

OUR LIVE OPERATORS ARE STANDING BY 24 HOURS A DAY 7 DAYS A WEEK Absolutely no hidden charges

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| 10p per min USA | 20p per min AUSTRALIA CANADA IRELAND |
| 40p per min JAPAN HONG KONG TAIWAN | Free access to exchange |
| 60p per min INDIA SOUTH AFRICA BRAZIL | All inclusive prices |
| | And the best rates on 100's more countries |
| | £25 buys you over 4 hours of talk time to the USA |

Please have your Credit Card ready. These new prices and free access to our exchange will be available from 24th July 1996

1 Call the TSB Mortgage

QUOTATION LINE.

2 Go hunt that house.

Find out what you can borrow, BEFORE hunting. The call is free, the quote is free, so why not ring TSB PhoneBank for more information quoting reference IH1.

CALL FREE 0500 758 000

Mortgages

Calls to PhoneBank may be recorded and monitored. A TSB cheque account is required. Assignment/negotiation of a suitable life policy may be required by the Bank as security. Applicants must be aged 18 or over. All loans subject to status. Not available in the Channel Islands. Written quotations are available on request by calling 0500 758 000. TSB Bank plc and TSB Bank Scotland plc (regulated by HMRO and SFA) are representatives of the TSB Marketing Group which is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority only for TSB life insurance, pensions, unit trusts and offshore investments. Advice on overseas investments relate only to the investments of that Group. TSB Bank plc, Victoria House, Victoria Square, Birmingham B1 1BZ. Registered in England and Wales. Number: 1089268. TSB Bank Scotland plc, Henry Duncan House, 120 George Street, Edinburgh EH2 4JH. Registered in Scotland. Number: 05227.

YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT

TSB We want you to say YES

حکذا من الاجل

international

Bruton sets out Irish strategy for leading EU

SARAH HELM
Doblin

John Bruton, the Irish Prime Minister, is launching a new marketing strategy for an old product. The product is called "Europe" and Mr Bruton knows it is going to be a hard sell.

Consumer confidence in the product has been ebbing of late. "Most people haven't a clue what Europe is trying to achieve," Mr Bruton told journalists as he set out Ireland's programme for its six-month rotating European Union presidency, which starts today.

It is vital, he said, to "bridge the gap" between the leadership of the EU and its citizens. Mr Bruton conceded that the task would be long and hard. But he announced a new slogan as the centrepiece of his campaign: "Secure peace, safe streets, solid money and secure jobs." His new theme is "memorability", because "people can only recall four things at once."

The question is whether Mr Bruton's campaign strategy for Europe contains anything new. Ireland takes over the presidency of the EU at a testing time. Just a week ago Europe's heads of government were desperately trying to patch over divisions caused by the beef war, and it will be Ireland's aim to ensure that the aftershocks of the crisis do not continue to undermine progress on Europe's bigger projects.

By December, Mr Bruton hopes that member states will have agreed a draft treaty on how to rebuild Europe's institutions in the negotiations of the inter-governmental conference (IGC). The Irish also expect to preside over the first serious estimates of which countries will be ready to join European Monetary Union, in December member states will produce their own economic forecasts for 1997, thereby indicating whether they expect to meet the Maastricht criteria to qualify for the launch in January 1999.

While steering Europe's en-

gine of integration steadily onwards, Mr Bruton has chosen the additional role of bringing the aims of the Union back into focus for its citizens. His strategy may be glossier and snappier, but its message appears to contain little that is new.

"Secure peace" is a slogan which will have little meaning for most Europeans, whose closest experience of war in recent times has been the conflict



John Bruton: Determined to bridge gaps within the EU

in the former Yugoslavia which the EU was unable to avert. "Safe streets" is intended to inspire the citizens with confidence that the EU is now playing a prime role in combating drugs and international crime. But promises of a new "war on drugs" are likely to ring hollow when the debate reverts to an arcane institutional wrangle over how to give the Brussels institutions more power over justice and home affairs.

"Solid money" is a slogan which attempts to boost confidence in the coming of the euro. But European citizens so far remain unconvinced of the euro's "solidity" and are unlikely to be won over without more convincing proof of the benefits of the single currency. "Secure

jobs" is a slogan which has been shouted from the European rooftops for many years. Every EU summit in recent times has been presented as a "summit for jobs".

Mr Bruton concedes that the slogan is little more than an attempt to focus Europe's values, and does not offer any meaningful answers to the problems of unemployment. He hopes that a new chapter on employment will be inserted into Europe's new treaty during the IGC. But he said last week: "I cannot think of anything which we cannot already do under existing EU law on employment. But we need new political focus."

Ireland is well-positioned to be the country promoting new confidence in the European Union. It likes to boast that it is the most enthusiastic country about Europe in the Union. The causes of this enthusiasm lie all around, as signs pop up proclaiming that roads, bridges and factories have been built thanks to EU regional aid fund.

European Union membership is partly the cause for Ireland's successful economy which is likely to steer it towards membership of the first wave of countries in the single currency. However, even the Irish may not be entirely convinced by Mr Bruton's new campaign.

On the horizon looms the prospect of the enlargement of the Union, whereby Eastern European countries will be given membership, expanding the union to up to 27 members. Ireland can only lose during this process, as the EU cake is carved up once again and funds flow out to the poorer cousins to the East.

Over the next six months the Irish presidency will battle to shore up the rights of smaller countries when the process of enlargement gets under way. But all the signs are that regaining popular confidence in the European product is set to get harder. Mr Bruton's hard-hitting slogans seem unlikely to be enough.



Seeking dignity in death: Paul O'Grady's advocacy of voluntary euthanasia has brought the issue to public attention. Photograph: AP

Australia hails courage of politician's declaration

LOCAL HEROES

No 23: Paul O'Grady

When he resigned suddenly as an MP in January, rumours about Paul O'Grady began flying. The 35-year-old Labor Party member of the New South Wales state parliament had achieved something of a celebrity status six years earlier when he publicly declared that he was a homosexual.

Plenty of other prominent Australians have "come out": actors, writers, lawyers, academics and one of Sydney's most prominent rugby league stars, who did so recently on a popular television sports programme, *The Footy Show*.

But Mr O'Grady is the first Australian politician to declare that he is gay. Last week, he resurfaced after disappearing from public view for six months to confirm what the rumour-mongers had been suggesting: he has AIDS.

There was no reporter, just Mr O'Grady and occasionally his mother, Val, speaking directly to camera.

The response was overwhelming. Mr O'Grady has been hailed for his courage in speaking out over his fight against HIV, which has infected 20,000 Australians since 1983, resulting in 4,700 deaths. As Bob Carr, the premier of New South Wales, and leader of the state's ruling Labor Party, told viewers: "Having a politician say, 'This is my life, HIV and AIDS', is a reminder to everyone that a lot more of this is going to happen in our society."

Paul O'Grady grew up in the sprawling western suburbs of Sydney with politics in his blood. He was still under 30 when he won a seat as a left-wing candidate in the Legislative Council, the state's upper house, where political deals are fought over. It was in that chamber, and on the streets outside it, that Mr O'Grady fought another prominent MP, the Rev Fred Nile, leader of the anti-gay, pro-Christian, pro-family values Call in Australia Party.

Mr Nile has tried unsuccessfully to outlaw the Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras, an annual street carnival in which Mr O'Grady marches. "We want to restore Sydney as a clean city, morally and spiritually," he says.

It is not surprising, then, that

Mr O'Grady sees his decisions to go public about both his sexuality and AIDS as overtly political. He decided to leave parliament, he says, because he was no longer well enough to stand up to its rigours. He felt that he should use his energies fighting not just his disease but also the ignorance and prejudice surrounding it.

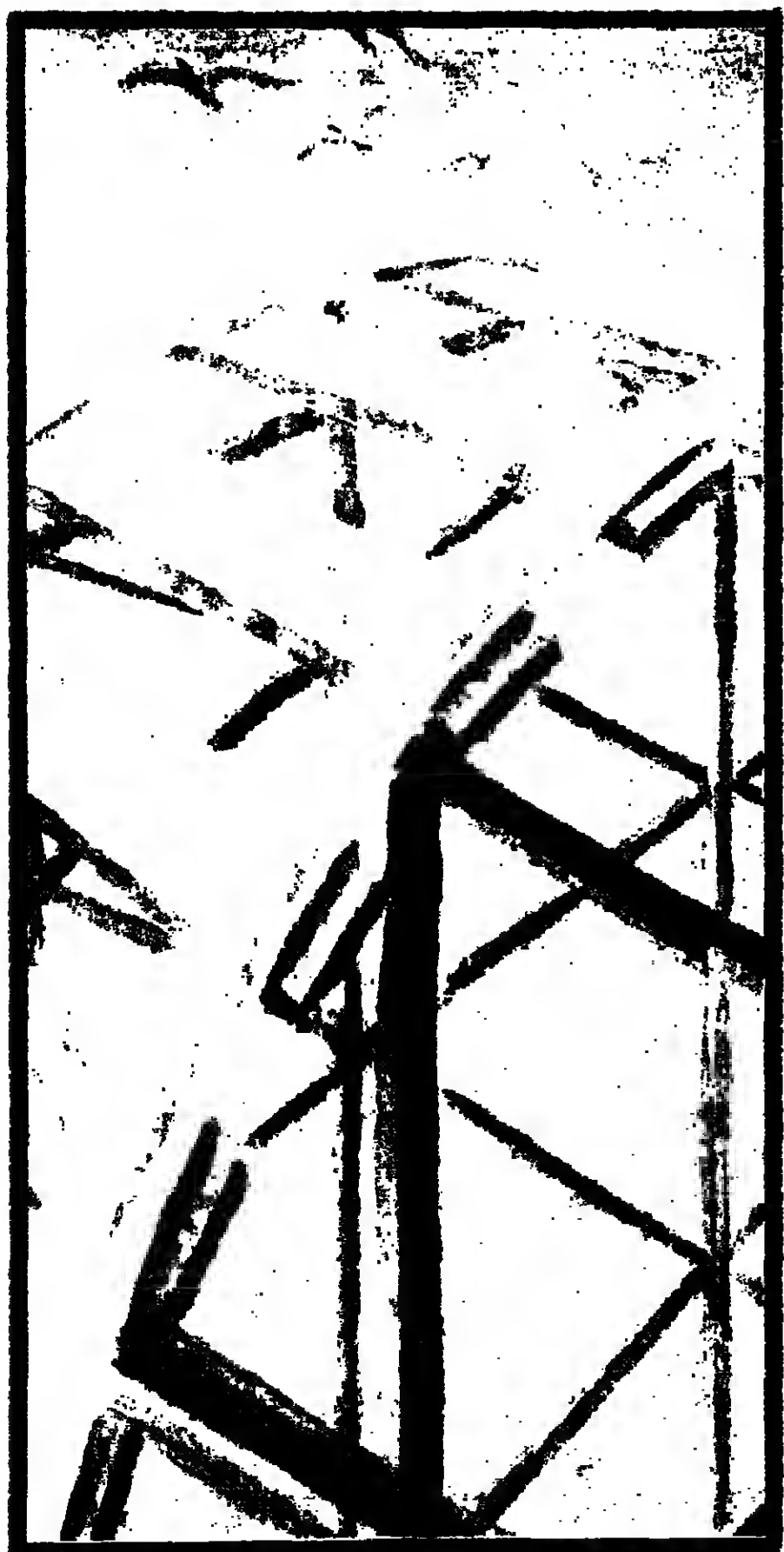
His campaign goes beyond the gay community. Having seen many people die painfully from AIDS and other fatal illnesses, Mr O'Grady believes strongly in voluntary euthanasia. Last year, he introduced a private member's bill to parliament to legislate such processes. It is unlikely to succeed. The Labor Party, in which Irish Catholic influences are strong, is against it.

Yet Mr O'Grady is far from a lone voice. In the Northern Territory, Australia's least populous region, the world's first law allowing voluntary euthanasia is due to come into force today. Politicians in the rest of Australia are up in arms about it, and Canberra is threatening to pass overriding legislation to nullify the territory's law.

Mr O'Grady's advocacy, from a deeply personal perspective, has got Australians discussing the law's pros and cons in a way that might not have happened otherwise. "I have never understood how lying in a hospital bed rotting away is dying with dignity," he says. "Life is about quality of life, and death should be a quality death."

The former MP looks more physically robust than he did when he quit parliament in January, the product of a lengthy holiday and, as he puts it, "fighting with mind over matter". Whenever his time comes, and whatever the law, he says that he has doctor friends "ready to help and guide me". How? "I hope, if I need to, that I can hold out my arm and have a little needle which takes me off quietly and peacefully after I've said my farewells. That's how I'd like to do it."

Robert Milliken



Important Announcement for existing Northern Rock Share Account Holders

On Monday 1 July 1996 Northern Rock is to open a share account version of its Great North Postal Deposit Account to existing share account holders.

Great North Postal Share Account is available only to holders of existing Northern Rock share accounts and must be opened with the same name details and order of names of account holders as the existing share account from which the opening transfer of funds must take place.

Great North Postal Share Account enables existing share account holders to maintain their investing membership rights in the Society.

Details of the Great North Postal Share Account, which can be operated by post only, can be obtained by ringing our freephone Investment Information Line on 0500 50 5000.

NR
NORTHERN ROCK

Northern Rock is a public company limited by guarantee. Northern Rock Group is a company limited by guarantee.

Britons die as floods hit Middle East

Four Britons were among seven people killed by a flash flood in Oman, the Foreign Office said yesterday. In nearby Yemen, the death toll from floods in the past fortnight was said to have reached more than 300.

The Britons were on a hiking tour through one of Oman's most popular recreation areas in Wadi Bimash, the so-called Snake Gorge, near Rustaq. The seven victims, who also included two Americans and a Dutch woman, were among 26 people of different nationalities on the trek - mostly civilian business people. One other person was injured.

Rescue teams are still searching for the body of one missing Briton. Another was taken to hospital and is said to be in a stable condition.

"The victims were terribly unlucky," said a British Embassy spokesman in Muscat. "There is always a risk when going on these excursions, but it was a popular tour and people don't really expect any danger."

"There are only 6,000 Britons out here in Oman," he said. "Of course a tragedy like this has deeply upset everyone."

He said British Embassy staff were working closely with the Royal Oman Police and other Omani authorities.

Officials said that the worst floods to hit the impoverished Arab state of Yemen in 30 years have killed more than 300 people and made several thousand families homeless. The floods began in mid-June, caused by unusually heavy rains. The Yemeni President, Ali Abdullah Saleh, has said the damage is estimated at \$1.2bn (£0.8bn).

Suicide-bomb attack kills five in Turkey

Tunceli (Reuters) - At least five soldiers were killed and 25 people wounded in a suicide-bomb attack on a military parade in the eastern Turkish town of Tunceli yesterday, when a female bomber blew herself up in the town's central square.

Security officials said the attack was the work of Kurdish guerrillas who have recently threatened suicide attacks.

The attack happened two days after the creation of an Islamist-led government that ended nine months of political turmoil in Turkey.

Around 20,000 people have died in a 12-year campaign by the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) guerrilla group, fighting for independence or autonomy.

The rebels are often active in the mountains around Tunceli,

where security was stepped up earlier this month after a would-be bomber, also female, died in the outskirts of the town when the device she was carrying exploded prematurely.

The exiled rebel leader Abdullah Ocalan threatened in March to unleash suicide bombers on western Turkish cities if the government did not respond to a unilateral ceasefire he called last December. Turkish authorities ignored the call.

On Thursday, government troops killed dozens of Kurdish guerrillas in a cross-border raid against a rebel base in the mountains of northern Iraq, military officials said. A military official in Tunceli called the raid the biggest cross-border operation of the past four months.



هكذا من الاصل

Defence must live on a smaller slice of the pie



ONE CANADA SQUARE CANARY WHARF LONDON E14 5DL
TELEPHONE 0171-293 2000 / 0171-345 2000 FAX 0171-293 2435 / 0171-345 3435

An Irish terrorist bomb explodes at the Quebec barracks. Questions ensue. Where were the Army's security patrols and why weren't they stepped up during what ought to be, after Manchester, a period of the highest alert? Why is the much-vaunted participation of the Security Service in the "war against terrorism" showing such little result? There is a question for the Home Secretary, Michael Howard. But he, never one to restrain himself when an opportunity for coarse intra-party politicking presents itself, is dashing off to allege it is somehow all Europe's fault. It's pretty rich to hear other countries being lectured by a British government minister whose proven ineffectiveness in excluding IRA terrorists from the United Kingdom has been unfortunately demonstrated in successive recent outrages.

Yet so far no one has asked a most pertinent question: The mortar was fired in Osnabrück. What exactly is it that 4 Armoured Brigade is doing in Germany? Presumably it is no longer guarding the Fulda Gap. To respond that the British Army remains in Germany because of Nato obligations will just about do as a holding answer but fails to address a wider point. The British Defence Establishment is still too big, too far-flung, too ambitious.

Whatever the precise shape of the Armed Forces in the early 21st century they are not shrinking fast enough—in terms of what British foreign policy requires or what can be afforded given taxing and spending priorities at home. There is a strong case, therefore, for William Waldegrave and his Treasury boss Kenneth Clarke to return to the Ministry of Defence for savings. Yes, the last defence review is less than two years old and yes, overnight savings in a capital-intensive arena like defence are well-nigh impossible. None the less, whoever the Secretary for Defence is, the job is the same. It is managing decline.

The incumbent, Michael Portillo, was sent to Defence to expiate his sin against Mr Major. And now he is in political trouble. We have that on the authority of Jonathan Aitken who yesterday accused Conservative colleagues of using the sale and lease back of Ministry of Defence married quarters as a rod to heat the young pretender's back. It's difficult to muster much sympathy for Mr Portillo. His cowardice last year, his jingoistic absurdities at successive party conferences mark his card unfavourably. If the Redwoods have now moved against him, he deserves it. But on the broad question of breaking up the property empire controlled by the MoD he must be right, in the longer run.

Yet if he is right in terms of the big picture, the way he has gone about selling off the estate looks both grasping and callous. Service families are being plunged into deep uncertainty about

their future accommodation. This is an example of the dogmatic theorising about management and organisations that has come to be accepted as the norm in Whitehall. Organisations, American gurus used to assert (before the real world experience of firms showed they were wrong), should "stick to their knitting". Applied in simplistic fashion to the MoD this has been taken to mean all tasks deemed unrelated to fighting and defending should be hived off, privatised or otherwise junked. But did the gurus ever wonder if there was a connection between soldiers' courage and loyalty

and official treatment of their dependants? It now emerges, contrary to what Mr Major has said, that the MoD is giving no guarantees to service families about where they will live after the developers take over.

This policy has much in common with the much-hyped private finance initiative. The Government garners a capital sum, though thanks to sweeteners it will turn out to be less than the headline sum. But what happens later when the new owners seek to raise rents? What are the revenue consequences for the MoD? The fact that additional money is politically vital this year has ensured

that this kind of deal has not been scrutinised properly in terms of its general benefit to the public revenues. Anyone who thinks the Treasury is a bastion of probity in public spending should examine the accounts for 1995-96 and 1996-97 from the perspective of 10 years' hence. Unfortunately by then Sir Terry Burns and his cronies will have retired and hauling them before the Public Accounts Committee will do little good.

The Tory MPs who have taken against Mr Portillo are not, needless to say, exercised by worries about money. Nor do they really care for tenants. These selfsame MPs did not, let's recall, raise a single voice in favour of tenant consultation when the right to buy for local authority and housing association tenants was introduced or subsequently the Government moved to wrest entire estates away from their public-sector owners. Their concern is with dismantling a Great Symbol of the Nation. Defence is, for some Tories, a totemic issue. This is evident in the past weekend's nonsense about delegations of beribboned generals and senior ministers failing to visit the Somme. Lady Thatcher's knee jerked.

On the surface these Tory symbolists and Michael Portillo have much in common: the Armed Forces, past and present, are an indispensable element in the project of English or Unionist nationalist revival. But Mr Portillo knows just how much defence costs and

how it cannot escape the scrutiny of effectiveness and efficiency which has been applied with such rigour to other blocks of public spending. The Ministry of Defence is, truth to tell, as much part of the welfare state as the Department of Social Security; historically welfare and warfare owe much to one another. A Tory party claiming any consistency or accomplishment in managing public money has no choice but to subject the diminishing claims of the defence state to continuous and sharp scrutiny.

A new end for the fat cats' tale

As PG Wodehouse might have put it, what the deuce is a chap to do without a chap to pour his Darjeeling and iron his *Independent*? It's a question corporate chieftains and City millionaires have increasingly been asking themselves. In a world of personal trainers and style counsellors it surely follows that personal services ought once again to be provided at home. But that puts a premium on Hudson and Mrs Bridges and they are playing the market. Buck House faces a kitchen drain. Perhaps it's the beginning of a jobs boom—the more fat cats, the more people needed to squash their fleas. The University of Luton is even now preparing a BA in Jeevesian Studies.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Parliament suffers from MPs' failings

Sir: The real danger posed by Anthony Bevis' excellent expose of the *de facto* weakness of Parliament ("A day in the death of the Commons", 28 June) is a temptation to find alternative mechanisms of democratic power. Parliamentary procedures are not the problem. It is the quality of our MPs and the impoverished narrowness of political ideas they represent that must be addressed. Politicians are now widely regarded as cynical, opportunistic and unprincipled but we only get the MPs and the political parties we vote for. And we only vote on the progressively narrow Blair-Major agenda currently debated in the public forum.

Parliamentary democracy was won after momentous struggles by movements like the Chartists' campaign. Many lives were expended (in both the acute and chronic senses) in achieving this cherished aim. Movements like that of the Suffragettes fought to optimise the extent of constitutional democracy, and today corresponding struggles in less developed nations win the sympathy and support of many people in Britain.

It would be utter folly to allow the inadequacy of our current MPs to cause us to lose faith in Parliamentary supremacy. Dr GARY SLAPPER
Law School
Staffordshire University
Stoke-on-Trent

Sir: You complain about our poorly attended, babby and ineffective House of Commons with its apparently supine attitude to the Executive. But is this surprising? What possible enthusiasm could MPs have for their job when their positive work is not reported, they are portrayed as crooks, careerists or time-servers and they are obliged to accept without question a salary that would prompt industrial action were it to be imposed upon the occupants of the Parliamentary Press Gallery. If Parliament is working flat out considering a large number of public bills, the media says that we have too much legislation. If the agenda is thinner and MPs devote their time to Select Committees and constituency work, we are told that the Government of the day has run out of ideas.

You imply that this state of affairs is related to the Conservative Party. The actions of Mr Blair in summarily changing devolution policy give the lie to that. We do need reform, but it will require more than legislation to change the attitude of political leaders to Parliament. NICHOLAS KENT
National Secretary
Tory Reform Group
London SW1

Sir: I was a member of the Procedure Committee 1975-79: the Procedure Report of 1978, which recommended establishing a structure of Departmental Select Committees, hoped that it would enable the House as a whole to exercise effective control and stewardship over Ministers and the expanding bureaucracy of the modern state for which they are answerable, and to make the decisions of Parliament and the Government more responsive to the wishes of the electorate.

Many believe that the trend now to the contrary, as illustrated by the increasing scope and impact of



"negative" Statutory Instruments and of EC legislation. The former are rarely debated at all, and even debates on the latter can only take legislative decisions in secret. Thus, the advance of executive authority has continued since the 1978 report, which said that the working of the constitution was even then: "weighted in favour of the Government to a degree which raises widespread anxiety". NIGEL SPEARING MP
(Newham South, Lab)
House of Commons
London SW1

Reducing Russia's visa queues

Sir: You recently published letters from three of your readers (15, 19, 21 June) complaining about the visa service at our Moscow Embassy. I was most concerned to learn of their criticism which I take very seriously.

I offer every assurance that we wish to encourage as many Russians as possible, business people and tourists alike, to visit the UK. It is in our interests to do so, and provided that an applicant satisfies the requirements of the Immigration Rules (and 96 per cent do) all our efforts are directed to that end.

Moscow, however, is now our largest visa issuing post in the world; and with an average annual increase in demand of 25 per cent in each of the last three years, our ability to provide the space and staffing levels necessary has been under great strain. June and July, being the busiest months, create queue problems for applicants, but

we simply cannot accommodate the 500 to 600 applicants a day inside the existing Embassy compound.

I take a personal interest in our Moscow operation. I visited Moscow last December and approved plans to enlarge and improve the old premises at a cost of £700,000. The renovated offices opened on 13 May and provide waiting space for 160 persons and new counter positions for eight visa officers (of which there are currently 17) at a time.

We are always seeking to improve our visa service to Russian applicants and are looking closely to see how the length of queues and queuing times can be reduced. JEREMY HANLEY MP
Minister of State
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
London SW1

Good relations for twin towns

Sir: Regarding your article (25 June) "Don't be beastly to the Germans" you will be pleased to hear that in Tonbridge, Kent, we have very good relations with Germany.

On the 50th anniversary of the war, we and our twin town, Hensentamm, each set up a 50 Year Peace Fund from which money has been available to give young people from families of limited means the opportunity to participate in twinning visits.

In addition, on alternate years, we in Tonbridge are given all the profits from our twin town's

money-making projects, and combined with our own profits, we are able to give to worthwhile causes in our area. In 1995, the magnificent sum of £1,400 was shared among local groups.

Perhaps if more towns twinned with German towns and villages there would be a greater understanding between the nations and the editors of certain shabby newspapers might realise the damage they cause with their twisted sense of humour. MARJORIE J STEWART
Tonbridge, Kent

IBM produces highest revenues

Sir: David Osborne alleges (report, 3 June) that Electronic Data Systems (EDS) is "the largest computer systems management and consulting enterprise in the world." You're off the mark. IBM is the largest services company in the world, not EDS.

In 1995, for example, IBM's services revenues were \$12.7bn, versus the \$12.4bn for EDS to which the report refers. But the gap is actually wider in favour of IBM. EDS's revenues include some \$3.9bn of General Motors' revenues, while IBM's do not include some \$3.5bn. Furthermore, if one were to add IBM's maintenance business of over \$7bn, IBM's total global services would be almost double those of EDS. BOB DJURDJEVIC
President
Annex Research
Phoenix, Arizona

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, and include a daytime telephone number. (Fax: 0171-293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk) Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

No logic in war crime accusation

Sir: The United Nations war crimes tribunal in the Hague has accused Radovan Karadzic and his military commander, General Ratko Mladic, of being "war criminals" ("Karadzic forced out of Bosnian elections", 28 June). While welcoming justice for all of the victims of the Bosnian conflict, it is difficult to understand the logic behind these particular accusations.

Although the Serbs undoubtedly committed the majority of war crimes in Bosnia the Croats and Bosnian Muslims are not completely blameless. What's more, except on grounds of political expediency, how is it that the Serbian leader, Slobodan Milosevic, who is surely the one who pulled the strings behind the scenes from the beginning of the conflict, is now absent from the list of indicted "war criminals"? Now that Milosevic has become useful to the West presumably war crimes charges levelled against him at the height of the conflict are to be quietly forgotten.

Perhaps the only manner in which to understand these inconsistencies is to look back to the post-war Nuremberg trials where "war crimes" were only defined by the victors as those committed by the enemy and losers. TARAS KUZIO
Research Fellow
Centre for Russian and East European Studies
University of Birmingham

Is the academic grass greener?

Sir: Duncan Morgan (report, 27 June) compares, unfavourably, his remuneration for marking exam scripts to that of his plumber and washing-machine repair man.

What he forgets is that they are almost certainly self-employed, whereas I believe very few teachers are. The self-employed aren't entitled to sick pay, holiday pay or unemployment benefit, they have to buy all their own training or certification, pension and insurance, and they only get paid for the hours they actually work.

It would be very difficult to earn the £1000 he suggests in 40 hours in such jobs. The reality is likely to be two or three different jobs each day, only the time on the customer's premises being chargeable.

Permanent teachers are also in the fortunate position of having a job from which it is almost impossible to get the sack except for gross misconduct—this must be worth a lot in these days when most people (employees and self-employed) don't have anything like such security. LOIS WAKEMAN
Lyme Regis
Dorset

Sir: Does Hamish MacRae have any evidence for the claim ("Can we afford holidays?", 28 June) that university lecturers have long holidays? When term ends (50-60 hours work a week) the even harder work of research begins immediately. I suspect that university lecturers have shorter holidays than most. GALEN STRAWSON
Jesus College, Oxford

Legal problems of asylum law

Sir: Tomorrow the House of Lords will be asked to take away from asylum seekers the right to benefits which the Court of Appeal has just restored to them. Even if the Government were to win the vote, it would not be out of the legal wood ("Judges up the ante over asylum laws", 26 June).

The Court of Appeal ruled against the Government because their action contradicted an Act of Parliament. The Government, of course, sees no such contradiction, but the question whether two Acts of Parliament contradict each other is a question for the courts, not for the Government. It is beyond the power even of a sovereign parliament to make a contradiction not a contradiction.

By deciding not to repeal the earlier Act the Government is leaving the contradiction in place. The right to seek asylum, which the Court of Appeal found to be threatened by the withdrawal of benefits, is guaranteed not only by an Act of Parliament but by an international treaty (the UN Convention on Refugees 1951) which Parliament cannot alter. Since ministers are still proclaiming their adherence to that treaty they cannot rule out the possibility that some future judge may deliver a judgement beginning "Parliament cannot possibly have intended that..."

Earl RUSSELL
Liberal Democrat Social Security spokesperson
House of Lords
London SW1

Football for all

Sir: Germaine Greer ("Greer on Gazza: In his lumpy shorts, the idiot savant who won us all over", 28 June) misses the point when she portrays the partisanship of football supporters as male vs female. For all interested English persons last Wednesday, it was England vs Germany: team vs team.

It is an injustice to say that the female supporters in the crowd and at home are no more than parasites feeding off the thick air of testosterone. I challenge Ms Greer to sit in a crowd at Wembley after years of being a football supporter and not to feel as though her next breath were dependent upon the next move on the field. The relationship between team and supporters is the embodiment of our football culture, and without a doubt it exists regardless of gender.

I am sure I speak for every female football supporter when I say that I am astonished at the insinuation that I should be unable to experience the ecstasy, the desolation and the whole spectrum of emotions in between, simply because I am a woman. MIRANDA JEFFREY
Puris

Living on borrowed words

Sir: Bob Monkhouse has borrowed another man's remark for use on his 68th birthday ("Quote Unquote", 29 June). "If I'd known I was going to live this long I would have taken better care of myself" was first said by the American jazzman Eubie Blake years ago on the occasion of his (I think) 98th birthday. CHRISTOPHER GOSLAND
Bath, Avon

analysis

If you're hip, you must be Irish

No longer need they mask their roots: the Irish in Britain are proud of their origins. By Jack O'Sullivan

Amid general hand-wringing over the IRA's return to violence, you'll hear not a word from one group of Irish people. There are millions of them, but they haven't been on television discussing Friday's mortar attack on an army barracks. No one would even have thought to ask their opinions.

The Irish in Britain are politically invisible. They have tried to stay out of the Troubles: it was not they who blew people up; the bombers came almost exclusively from the Republic and Northern Ireland. And since the ceasefire, they – unlike Irish-Americans – have played a minimal role in shaping the peace. When outrages occur, John Hume, Ian Paisley, Sir Patrick Mayhew and John Bruton all make their predictable comments. But not this community in our midst that knows so much, feels so much and says so little. Like the Arabs in Israel proper, they are in every town; but they remain loyal, dutifully silent.

It isn't difficult to understand such diffidence. They have not always felt welcome. The witty Irish gentleman has long been acceptable in the drawing room, but his countrymen have often been less well-regarded.

The Duke of Wellington famously summed up English disdain when asked: "Sir, is it true you were born in Ireland?" The Iron Duke replied: "Being born in a stable doesn't make you a horse."

Popular images of the Irish man have portrayed him as a foolish, idle figure of fun. One Victorian contributor to Punch described him as "a creature manifestly between the Gorilla and the Negro." This community, which has seen Catholicism in Britain fully tolerated only since the 1830s and Irishness usually regarded as suspect, is reluctant to generate controversy.

The tide of hostility and the several miscarriages of justice



Gaelic celebration: a St Patrick's Day parade past the town hall was just one manifestation of Manchester's Irishness during its first annual Irish festival in March Peter Greenfield

that followed Birmingham and Guildford pub bombings in 1974 served as a reminder to keep heads down. Twenty-five years of conflict in Northern Ireland did little to challenge perceptions of the Irish as irrational and violent.

But in this British community, whose size the census does not even measure (the best guess is 1 million Irish-born, 3 million of Irish descent), something extraordinary is happening. A remarkable surge in cultural self-confidence is taking place. We are seeing nothing short of the greening of

The signs said no Irish need apply. My parents had all the prejudice

against which Catholics alone had previously laboured.

But in this British community, whose size the census does not even measure (the best guess is 1 million Irish-born, 3 million of Irish descent), something extraordinary is happening. A remarkable surge in cultural self-confidence is taking place. We are seeing nothing short of the greening of

England, as the Irish in Britain set aside a traditional low profile, moving out of the ghetto, beyond enclaves of clubs and pubs and into the mainstream.

A swift pint in O'Shea's hints at the transformation. The Rocky Road To Dublin is belting out at a fierce pace. Behind the bar, the Irish Post, Longford Leader and Sligo Champion are on sale, there's a Powers Whiskey mirror, hurling sticks displayed on the wall and the drink is flowing.

Denis Keegan, Guinness in hand, is waxing on about how proud he is to be Irish. It all sounds like a typical, rough, Irish pub, hidden away in some deprived quarter of an English city, frequented by sad, down-trodden, reluctant exiles, given to nostalgia for the old sod.

But O'Shea's is no back-street shebeen: it's in the centre of Manchester and one of the city's fashionable watering holes. The pub is a short walk from the Arndale Centre, which the IRA all but demolished a fortnight ago. A few years ago, such a pub would probably not

have existed. If it did, the publican would have boarded it up for fear of a backlash.

But old attitudes have been transformed. Manchester has not taken its anger out on the Irish community. Perhaps this is understandable: 20 per cent of the population has Irish roots. Many of the emergency workers interviewed after the bomb had Irish accents: the man trapped in a tower for three days was named Danny O'Neill.

But an important reason may be a huge change in perceptions. Suddenly, Irishness is hip. "Irish culture is seductive. It has become a signifier for hedonism with soul," says Frank Cottrell-Boyle, a former scriptwriter for *Coronation Street*. "There was a decisive moment during the World Cup, when Ireland was there and England wasn't, when people came out as Irish who hadn't been before. Irishness could represent them on the world stage." And a fashion for the *craic* is surviving even the IRA's latest campaign.

O'Shea's is just one of 60 Irish theme bars opened in the Manchester area in the past couple of years. (One – Paddy's Rat and Carrot – was a bomb casualty.) In March, the city held its first annual Irish festival week, complete with a St Patrick's Day parade past the town hall. More than a thousand people currently play Gaelic football in the area.

Planning permission has been granted for a huge, 13-acre centre celebrating Gaelic culture. Yet fresh migration from Ireland virtually dried up years ago: Manchester's vibrancy is built around a young generation that has no brogue.

In London, Irish restaurants, such as Mulligans in Mayfair, are fashionable. The Royal Court in the West End is devoted to Celtic drama. Riverdance, U2, repeated Irish victories in the Eurovision song contest, the success of the Republic's football team and international popularity of the Irish president, Mary Robinson, have all made Irishness flavour of the moment.

Extensive Radio 4 coverage of Hibernian arts, be it poetry, music or theatre suggests an ascendant culture. At a low-brow level, so many English stag parties now go off to Dublin for the weekend that the Irish government wants to stem the flow.

The sources of this new confidence are many. There was the arrival in the Eighties of a new immigrant wave, a third of them graduates, coming from a country where European Union membership has fostered a sense of modernity.

Some, particularly the unskilled, have had problems. Shane McGowan (late of the Pogues) sings of the recession-hit building worker: "I'm buggered to damnation/And I haven't got a penny/To wander the dark streets of London." But many of the "Ryanair generation" have lived well, flitting back and forth on cheap airfares, using Britain as a staging post before heading on to Europe and the United States. No longer are the Irish the poor relations.

The second generation, those born of the Fifties immigrants, is particularly important. Better educated than their parents, they know how Britain works. They sound, in their desire to forge a special identity, like confident young British

Muslims. Just as Muslims have tapped into an international culture, while dropping their parents' yearning for a return to the homeland, so this second generation is at home here while still choosing to be Irish. It is, after all, this generation that has supplied the key players for the successful Irish Republic team. Stars such as Liverpool-born Jason McAteer and Aston Villa's Cockney midfielder Andy Townsend would have vied for an England place, had they not decided it was cooler to be Irish. Two decades ago, it would have been unthinkable for them to spurn the flag of St George.

Back in O'Shea's, Denis Keegan is one of many Mancunians whose parents were born in Ireland. Sounding as

Irishness has become a signifier for hedonism with soul

English as Bobby Charlton, his traditional Claddagh ring, trademark of the young, is the only outward sign of his origins.

"It seems to be OK to be Irish," says Keegan, 30, a graduate, whose father was a labourer. "I used to be that the only place you could go was to old men's clubs down Stockport Road. But now there are so many places and your English friends come too. It's really in your face."

"My Dad came here 40 years ago and he worked his bollocks off. There were signs that no blacks or Irish need apply – my

parents went through all the prejudice. But the second generation doesn't know that. A lot of people are more up-front than their parents. I was the first in my family to go to university. We have to stand up for ourselves and hold on to our culture."

Sean McGuire, 29, Manchester-born manager in a ceiling tiles company, thinks people are just beginning to let their Irishness become visible. He plays the flute, tin whistle, does Irish dancing and plays Irish sports. He seems, like some Irish-Americans, more Irish than the Irish themselves.

Melanie Conway, 27, a travel agent, is typical. "I used to say I was English. I would not say my parents were Irish, but now I say that I'm of Irish descent."

Jim Bryan, 36, a Manchester electrician, has even more tenuous links with Ireland: his father left Co. Galway as a baby nearly 70 years ago and has never returned. "I went back for the first time last year, met the relations. I loved it. Nice and slow, not like rushing at 80 miles an hour here in Manchester. We're keeping in touch now – exchanging Christmas cards. There's a bit of Irish in me, I think. When you come back, you realise you understand yourself a little bit better."

This tendency for the second and third generation to continue to feel Irish confounds many sociologists. The Irish were expected to assimilate quickly. This has, after all, apparently happened in the oldest Victorian, Irish settlement, on Merseyside. Few in Liverpool would now call themselves Irish. However, most give themselves a local identity

– Liverpudlian or Scouse – rather than the usual national one. And all the characteristics of Liverpudlianism – verbalness, Catholicism, high value placed on family, irreverence for the Protestant work ethic – are vestiges of their rural, pre-industrial ancestors. Liverpudlianism seems, in short, a mask for Irishness.

The newer Irish communities used a single mask: Catholicism. They attended Catholic schools, where, according to Mary Hickman's authoritative new study of the Irish in Britain, they learned to define themselves as Catholic rather than as Irish. Their public rituals – confession and catechism on Saturday, Mass on Sundays, a miniature wedding dress at seven for the girls' First Communion – distinguished them denominationally but not ethnically.

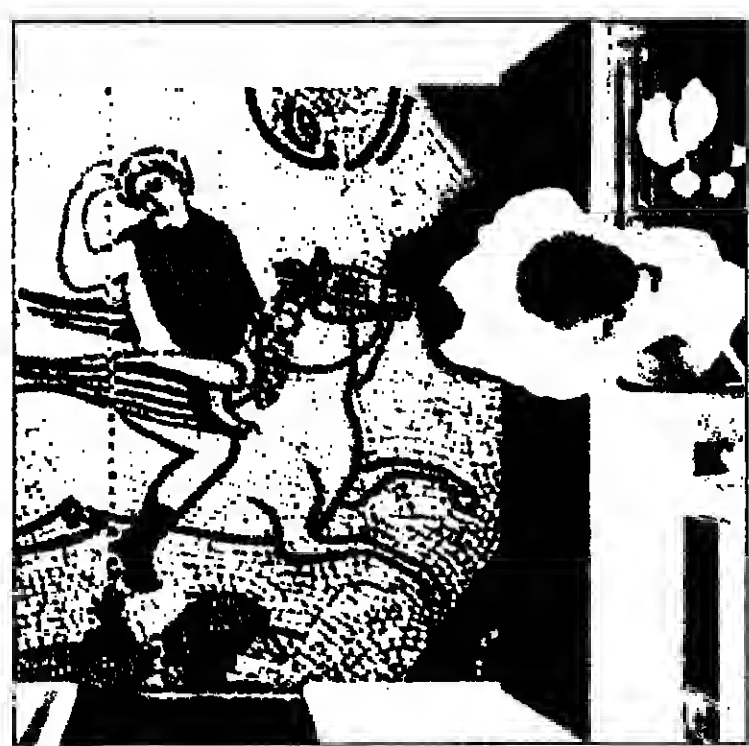
Now, as the power of the Catholic Church wanes and Irishness becomes less of a social impediment, this community appears to be seeking a more secular expression of difference. They are more aware: there are now popular degree courses in Irish Studies. Indeed, some university courses are over-subscribed, with many non-Irish students trying to gain a place. There is a campaign for the 2001 census to produce an accurate figure of how many Irish people live in Britain.

It is also worth knowing what they think about Northern Ireland. "No one agrees with violence or people getting hurt," says Sean McGuire. "People are keen on a united Ireland, but what happens over there does not directly impinge on us. There is no urgency to stand up and be counted. Peace is all that people want."

In Britain, Irish people discuss Northern Ireland among themselves, but it's such a touchy subject, that it would take someone with an awful lot of balls to tell the people of Britain what they should do. People would be afraid that if they started talking about politics, they would be accused of being IRA sympathisers.

"As the peace process got going, people started to talk more freely. I think now they will go back into their shells." There is, however, no sign that the revival in Irish culture will wane. "This is not an anti-British thing," says McGuire. "It's Irish blood running through the veins. Something to be proud of, not to be forgotten."

** 'Religion, Class and Identity' by Mary J. Hickman, Avebury Press.*



Save money on your home insurance and spend a little extra on your home.



0800 333 800

Please call a free quote weekdays 9am-5pm. Sources 9am-5pm. Not available in Northern Ireland.

Papa! Let the ads take a back seat

How do you visualise the typical TV car commercial?

I visualise it as Tom Conti talking off the top of a skyscraper, landing smiling on his feet, saying, "Handsprung durch Technik" and walking off into the sunset with a beautiful girl.

The only snag is that I don't seem to have included a car in the ad, but otherwise it represents a fair cross-section of car clichés. In fact, I sometimes think that the makers of TV car ads must be at their wit's end where to go next. They seem to have tried everything to make their client's car seem glamorous and romantic, yet trustworthy and reliable, safe yet sexy.

They have sent cars to the end of the world, they have brought cars back from the ends of the earth, they have filled them with exotic models, they have taken the exotic models out and put actors in, and made them enact little stories, tiny playlets, in which as often as not a French girl gets to say "Papa".

Very occasionally they have even taken the actors out and put real people in cars in real situations like a fast-moving traffic jam. Recently they have started getting silly as when, in the case of the Renault Mégane ads, they started making the car talk. When a car starts talking in an ad, I think we are running out of ideas. It only remains for a car to call another car "Papa".

People who make car commercials must now sit around at meetings and say things like: "There is absolutely nothing left to do in car commercials unless you want to have the car fly through the air!"

And somebody else says: "That's been done, too."

"Well," says somebody else, "we could always as a last resort take the mickey out of cars."

"How?"

"Well, sort of deconstruct them by doing a piss-take of them. Look, you could start off a car commercial with an exotic location, you know, then a shot of an iguana, twisy mountain road, glamorous drivers, funk music over, then a



Miles Kingston

voice comes in saying, 'We don't need all this junk! The car says it all!'

"And then what?"

"Well, you get the camera to pull back. You see that the car is not actually in the countryside, it's on a stand in front of a film of the countryside. You put out the lights, fade down the funky music and you're left with a studio in which everything is fake and tawdry – except the car!"

And now this has actually been done. I am sketching a description there of the new TV commercial for the Mitsubishi Carisma, which not only breaks the barrier of the spelling of the word charisma, but breaks the mould of car

ads by sending up car ads. At the end of the commercial the only person visible is not a glamorous actor but a cleaner with a brush, sweeping round the glittering car, and – nice touch this – roughly whistling the music we've just heard faded down on the funky mouth harp.

Of course, the voice-over doesn't end by saying: "The car says it all", because that might remind people of the Renault Mégane, which seems to have cornered the market in talking cars. So the voice-over says: "The car has it all". But otherwise it seems to be the first honest car ad, because what it is saying in effect is, "WE know and YOU know that car ads are all cosmetic, so we are going to be the first to come out and admit it and just concentrate on the car!"

This message is a slightly dishonest one in that the ad doesn't tell us anything about the car at all except its name and what it looks like – nothing about the performance or how many people can get in it or whether it is licensed to

have weddings celebrated in it. No, this is in effect the first car commercial about other car commercials.

"This is an ad for the Mitsubishi Carisma," it is saying. "Why should you buy a Carisma? Because Mitsubishi are the kind of people who don't need to make TV ads. That's why we made this ad. To tell you that we're not making it. Don't believe us. Believe what the car says. Not that it talks..."

Where do they go next? If we now have an ad saying we don't need ads, where do the ad boys go from here? Will we have a sunset, a car driving up, two glamorous people getting out of the new Dippon Oregon Hatchback and one saying to the other, "You know, I didn't believe the car commercials until I drove the Oregon?" Or will we see an actor sitting in a new car saying, "You know, I could have made a lot of money doing this ad. But I preferred to keep the car instead?"

I don't know. But I shall be interested to find out. Well, moderately interested.

حکذا من الاجل

Le Pen skilfully stokes the nationalist fire

French politicians, of both left and right, don't know what to do about the racist appeal of the 'Front National'

While the European football competition was generating a wave of irrational anti-German feeling in the British tabloid press last week, France was having a similar but more serious experience. Jean-Marie Le Pen, leader of the *Front National*, laid into the national football team, saying it was artificial to get players from abroad and baptise them as French, particularly as most of them either failed to sing the Marseillaise or appeared to mouth words that didn't accord with the actual text.

Indeed, while the players are all French citizens, one was born in Ghana, another has dual Portuguese/French nationality and others have Italian, Algerian or Tunisian parents or can claim Spanish or even Armenian grandparents. As for singing, the captain said that he preferred humming: a second disapproval of the Marseillaise because it was a war song; and a third said that he was only capable of singing Basque ditties in the team bus.

Football in France has been like boxing in the US – the newest immigrant group uses it as a method of climbing the ladder. By 1940, 25 players of foreign origin had represented France. Football was so weakly rooted that it needed an infusion of talent from abroad. Since 1945 this foreign

legion has grown and accounts for 15 per cent of French professional players. The inflow into French teams has mirrored successive waves of immigration: Polish, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese and African. With this history, football is less the national game in France than it is in England, Italy or Spain. The French establishment sees it, along with other sports, as a powerful instrument of integration. M. Le Pen, therefore, was not criticising a new turn of events but a familiar situation. Mainstream political leaders, each one of whom fears him and his party, unanimously condemned him.

M. Le Pen made his comments within a few days of having obtained a signal victory over the French press. Using the courts, he forced *Le Monde* and others to give him a "right of reply" in response to its description of the *Front National* as a political party of the "extreme right". M. Le Pen objected; he was anxious to tell readers of *Le Monde* that the *Front National* was neither racist, nor xenophobic nor fascist. It was neither of the right nor of the left; it was *le parti de la France*. In fact, the difference between plain right wing and the extreme right far right does lie in attitudes to race. John Redwood recently defined Conservative ideology as believing that the state should be at once limited in its role



ANDREAS WHITTAM SMITH

'We are going straight towards an ethnic war'

and duty and yet strong in its chosen tasks, particularly in enforcing a strict moral law. Mr Redwood's formulation made no mention of preserving Britishness as an objective. When ethnic issues are brought into consideration, right wing becomes extreme right. Strong nationalistic sentiments such as Michael Portillo expresses are a step along the path. Then as nationalism becomes racism, it becomes far right or extreme right.

In his right of reply, M. Le Pen was engaging in a great pretence. Since 1973, the programme of the *Front*

National has centred on the survival of a French identity defined, as it believes, through 4,000 years of European culture, 20 centuries of Christianity, 40 kings and two centuries of the Republic. One enters into French nationality, says Le Pen, by "blood received, or blood spilt" – chauvinism, after all, goes back to the blind admiration for his country shown by Napoleon's soldier, Nicolas Chauvin.

In practice, the *Front National* has been ambiguous in its public statements, being, in Alexander Pope's words, "willing to wound and yet afraid to strike". Thus M. Le Pen last March: "Only the people is capable of sensing, by a sort of biological intuition, the mortal danger that blights its future." In this context, "biological" is a word from a racist vocabulary. Or a colleague of M. Le Pen: "We are going straight towards an ethnic war and that war will be total." In Bosnia or in France? Or another who scarcely fudges at all: "The nationalists are treated like dogs or pariahs. One will only be done with this situation by reacting vigorously. One must kill one's enemy. The Israeli right has killed Rabin and won the elections. I don't mean that it is necessary to kill Chirac, but we must stop having a position of respect or of consideration." These are alarming sentiments, all

the more so in light of M. Le Pen's success in the recent presidential election, when he attracted 15 per cent of the votes. The mainstream parties fear that if this share of the poll were to be repeated in the 1998 elections for the National Assembly, where the *Front National* is unrepresented, then M. Le Pen could hold the balance in a hung Parliament. As a result, some French politicians, led by François Léotard, met last month to attempt the construction of a "republican front", in which the mainstream parties, both of left and right, would put forward only one candidate in contests where the *Front National* has a chance of winning. These proposals have been met with scepticism. One reaction is that one should not disavow the *Front National* because only a small proportion of its electors are extreme and because, anyway, its very weight already gives it a legitimacy.

Thus we see how the clever, aggressive, dangerous M. Le Pen makes progress. I wonder what he would be doing if he was asked about the prospects for a party similar to his in the UK. Would he say: "A hopeless case: not enough social distress, too little ethnic tension, only sporadic hatred of foreigners, tradition of tolerance too strong? Or would he respond, "Yes, promising situation?"

The seed that fell on bare ground

The state of my lawn, writes Michael Hutchinson, reveals that Major is soon to be put out to grass

April 9th, 1992 may have been the day that John Major won his improbable victory at the polls, but it was also the day I turfed my lawn. I live in London but, like many people, dream of living in the country – something that is much easier to do while lying on the grass.

So when I moved in to my terraced house in spring 1979, I rejected the patio concept, and laboriously excavated sycamore roots, endless lumps of rubble, and a surprising number of Victorian beer bottles, to create the perfect lawn: 15 foot square. After gentle raking, feeding, seeding, and erection of a Heath Robinson system of nets to keep birds and the neighbours' cats away, all I had to do was wait.

Facing south and surrounded by high walls, the lawn thrived and by 1983, it was an ideal place to daydream staring at the sky and counting Jumbos. Friends and neighbours complimented me on the immaculate stripes and said how unusual it was to have grass in such a small garden.

1983 was a high point for Chateaufort du Pape, Margaret Thatcher – and my lawn. But by 1987 it was showing signs of neglect due to long trips abroad, and damage caused by the wheel of an ancient hand mower my grandmother had brought back from India well before Independence. It was small, but incredibly heavy, and bulldozed as much as it cut.

In June 1987, I bought a lightweight electric mower, in order to prevent further mechanical damage and, for a while, things did get better. But by the time the stock market crashed, it looked as if the writing was on the wall – not only for the economy and the Tory government, but for the lawn as well. The slow decline continued until spring 1992, when John Major decided to call an election, and I decided to start again and lay new turf.

Despite these apparent coincidences, it's only recently that I've come to realise that thanks to an inexplicable and uncannily accurate mechanism, the condition of my lawn somehow provides a graphic representation of the Tory's majority in Parliament.

Given that some people can do the same thing with tea leaves, sheep's entrails, and even opinion polls, I see no reason whatever to doubt that

my lawn has the gift of prophecy. My only dilemma is whether William Hill or John Major will pay the best price for its services.

Last summer, when the Eurosceptics started to whinge about Brussels and John Redwood challenged John Major to a "conquer" fight, a small patch of moss appeared in the far right-hand corner. When raked this turned into a bald patch of earth which steadily grew larger. In the past, this has been successfully repaired with a sprinkling of new seed, but just as recent by-elections have made it impossible for the Tories to sow any new seed, the drought of 1995 did the same for my lawn.

Then there's the cherry tree. I planted this years ago as a spindly little sapling attached to a massive 2-inch pole. Seventeen years later, its girth is

I see no reason to doubt that my lawn has the gift of prophecy

tremendous, its blossom has been spectacular (especially after last year's summer), and its branches provide welcome shade from the sun where our baby daughter can play. But grass needs light, and the painful truth is that the majority of the lawn is no longer really grass – just as the majority of MPs are no longer Tories. Moss from the right has met the bare earth caused by shade from the tree on the left. A small patch of grass remains in the centre near the French windows, but the word "lawn" is really no longer appropriate, just as the word "government" no longer seems appropriate to what the Tories are up to.

I wouldn't dream of chopping the tree down, but the lawn can't survive unless it goes. So perhaps I should write to inform Downing Street that on Thursday 4 July, work starts to replace the vestiges of a working lawn in Sedlescombe Road with a new patio paved with tiles in a tasteful shade of terracotta red.

I imagine the lawn at Downing Street still looks as good as ever, but then you'd hardly expect a politician's lawn to give a frank opinion about anything.

The welfare state has grown both inefficient and expensive. Labour has begun to offer tentative proposals for its reform. But radical changes are needed

How to open the benefit trap

By Frank Field

The first fruits of Labour's review of social security, which were revealed last week by Chris Smith, stretch to the limits the possibilities of action within the present system of taxation and social security. There are two compelling reasons why radical reform isn't merely an option but a necessity for Labour.

First, the hard truth the country has to face is that more, not less, needs to be spent on welfare. Yet under existing rules taxpayers are understandably reluctant to pay more. And second, the social security budget is growing at a rate – twice that at which the economy has been growing – which, unchecked, will financially derail the next Labour government.

A moment's reflection tells why more needs to be spent on welfare. Working lives have shortened and decades now are spent in retirement. An adequate retirement income depends on saving more now. Paradoxically the message of spending more on welfare comes at a time when the welfare budget is already growing like topsy. Each year the budget overruns by £3bn only to overrun again by a similar amount in the following year. The social security budget is not only by far and away the largest of all government budgets, but is increasing faster than any of the others. To embellish former mandarin Sir Geoffrey Holland's observation, other departments are left to scavenge the scraps that fall from the table upon which welfare feasts. The uncontrollability of this budget increasingly makes prioritising government business difficult. It wasn't for nothing that Aneurin Bevan remarked that priorities were the language of socialism.



How can a future Labour government break free of the curfew DSS expenditure would impose on most of its major initiatives? By addressing that question Labour begins the big debate of the Millennium. It involves recasting the relationship between the state and the individual, of switching the balance away from centralism towards other forms of collective association, as well as re-drawing the border between the public and private domain.

At the centre of today's welfare lurks a cancer that has been nurtured by the Tories. While expenditure on insurance provision since 1979 has risen by under 30 per cent, means test costs have soared by 300 per

cent. Means tests trample upon those basic instincts that help to sustain civilised progress. Means-tested help depends on low income and small savings. Such benefits therefore penalise work, savings and honesty.

In their craving for extending means-tested assistance, the Tories have launched the most significant attack ever by government on both the individual's and the nation's natural drive for self-improvement. And they have implemented their approach with a ruthlessness that the leaders of the old discredited Soviet regime would have admired.

Disengaging from this welfare nightmare demands wholesale reforms. Tory failure has

closed the option for limited incremental change. The hour demands the most radical reconstruction.

Labour's overriding commitment must be to begin a progressive disengagement from means-tested assistance. This cannot be achieved overnight. It will take perhaps 20 years to complete. But the first steps of that long journey need to begin with the advent of a Blair government.

The Job Seekers Allowance needs replacing with insurance cover for unemployment. This new benefit would run for six months, as does the Job Seekers Allowance. The big difference is that people would be required to benefit after 13

weeks rather than two years. As every week out of the labour market increases unemployment, this would give risk-takers an incentive to return to jobs with what might be a short shelf life.

Also, the partner's job would be safeguarded, as households would not be pushed into means tests where it pays most wives not to work. New jobs would become more fairly shared between those households with no workers and those with many. Similarly a new car/pension is an urgent reform. Here again is an opening for the new, collectively owned but non-state insurance corporation.

Third, pension provision must be made adequate and universal. A new pension corporation would be responsible for running the existing retirement pension, which will cover all workers. The four million workers on low earnings who currently pay nothing towards a state retirement pension would be brought within the scheme and a pension in their own right. Next, second pension coverage must also become universal for workers earning above a modest level. Those workers not in a company or a private pension scheme would be required to begin saving towards a second, funded pension.

This reform extends the existing system of compulsion so that it covers everyone and thereby does what is possible to ensure adequate retirement incomes for today's workers.

Last, the issue of fraud must also occupy the centre stage. The largest of all government budgets is under sustained attack by serious criminal fraud. Even someone with Peter Lilley's determination has yet to mount an adequate counter-fraud strategy. Here is another opening waiting to be seized. Only Labour appears ready to be tough on fraud and tough on the causes of fraud.

These days, new Labour cannot espouse many other serious methods for helping the poorest. It cannot put up benefits (and anyway that only makes the poverty trap worse). It cannot significantly redistribute income through the tax system – those days are gone and the voters will not stand for it. But a minimum wage, paid for in price increases (just as consumers absorbed the cost of VAT increases) is one of the best practical ways to help the poor without more welfare dependency and an unelectable tax system.

The rate would be universal but could be phased in gradually – and it

would be printed on every benefit book, posted in every post office and policed by the same pay-roll inspectors that check national insurance contributions. No exemptions or variations or added complexities, easy to understand and reviewed every year.

Some people will be shaken out of jobs. Some small employers will go to the wall. But in the main, the same jobs will still be done by the same people, if sometimes for different employers. In other words, the costs are sustainable in view of the benefits.

No doubt the Tories will represent Labour's minimum wage policy as a dangerous job-destroyer. This is a prize piece of bumbling from a party that has congratulated companies for their efficiency in the widespread slashing and burning of jobs, which has left firms severely downsized, with thousands more out of work and dependent on the ever-growing social security bill.

Labour has to acknowledge that some jobs might be affected by the introduction of a minimum wage, but it can point out, with passion, that the great majority of Cheryls, Dianes and Carols will benefit. And the clincher is that it will draw others currently trapped on state benefits back into productive employment.

... and give people a living wage

Cheryl sews frills on petticoats, earning £10 in 10 hours. Carol earns £2.50 an hour cleaning offices at four in the morning. Diane is paid £2 an hour cleaning in a pizza restaurant.

A minimum wage is one of the most radical policies new Labour has left, offering a real chance of escape from the benefit trap – albeit at a price. The cost of this policy is honestly assessed in a persuasive report today published by the Employment Policy Institute (*Employers and a National Wage by Fred Bayliss*).

There are a great many Cheryls, Carols and Dianes. Some 72 per cent of waitresses are paid under £3.50 an hour (Labour's presumed minimum wage rate). So are 36 per cent of textile workers. Nearly everyone paid under £3.50 is a woman part-timer, which explains the continuing chasm between men's and women's pay: between manual workers get only 75 per cent of male manual wages.

Women can only afford to do these jobs because they have working partners, so when people talk anxiously about the huge growth in women's jobs compared to men's – another death blow to men's self-esteem – this is the unappealing explanation. Against the minimum wage is political anxiety. It is a perilous policy for Labour – redolent of the old days of the Prices and Incomes Board. For the red rose party with mobile phones, the minimum wage looks like a cloth cap and an old knapsack worn over an Armani suit. It carries the baggage of trade unionism, tainted with an anti-market crude egalitarianism.

Some economists argue that if wages went up, employers would sack many of the low-paid. How can we compete with the tiger economies if we pay our workers so much more than they pay theirs? And what about wage inflation? Wouldn't everyone scramble to keep up their differentials?

Dr Fred Bayliss, former chairman of the Employment Policy Institute, interviewed employers who would be most affected. Other surveys have questioned all employers: the Reed survey last week found 49 per cent of employers approved of a minimum wage. But those who pay above the likely minimum wage support it because they expect to clean up when more marginal businesses go to the wall. Small supermarkets, for instance, pay lower wages than big chains, who mostly already pay above Labour's presumed minimum wage level.

Those most at risk are the 250,000 clothing workers, whose companies really are competing with cheap

imports. Although a minimum wage will be a blow, however, it will be of far less significance than the chill winds from abroad that the industry has faced for the past 100 years, says Bayliss. Problems in one fairly minor sector hardly justify ditching the good it will do elsewhere.

The best argument for a minimum wage is Labour's welfare-to-work strategy. A lot more people will be urged off Income Support and into work topped up with Family Credit. But without a minimum wage the state will subsidise ever more marginal, lame-duck or Scrooge employers.

These days, new Labour cannot espouse many other serious methods for helping the poorest. It cannot put up benefits (and anyway that only makes the poverty trap worse). It cannot significantly redistribute income through the tax system – those days are gone and the voters will not stand for it. But a minimum wage, paid for in price increases (just as consumers absorbed the cost of VAT increases) is one of the best practical ways to help the poor without more welfare dependency and an unelectable tax system.

The rate would be universal but could be phased in gradually – and it

would be printed on every benefit book, posted in every post office and policed by the same pay-roll inspectors that check national insurance contributions. No exemptions or variations or added complexities, easy to understand and reviewed every year.

Some people will be shaken out of jobs. Some small employers will go to the wall. But in the main, the same jobs will still be done by the same people, if sometimes for different employers. In other words, the costs are sustainable in view of the benefits.



POLLY TOYNEE

The Bayliss survey tried to find out which businesses would suffer the worst damage. The answer was caterers, cleaners, hairdressers, private health care and clothes manufacture. Bayliss concludes that most low-paid jobs are in services, not manufacturing, so they are not competing with tiger economies. The demand for services is unlikely to decline. Employers will put up their prices to cover the cost, secure in the knowledge that everyone else will do the same. Some small firms will go to the wall, but their business and jobs will be swallowed up into bigger enterprises. People will still eat pizzas and hamburgers, still get their hair done and go into old people's homes, even if it costs a bit more.

Those most at risk are the 250,000 clothing workers, whose companies really are competing with cheap

imports. Although a minimum wage will be a blow, however, it will be of far less significance than the chill winds from abroad that the industry has faced for the past 100 years, says Bayliss. Problems in one fairly minor sector hardly justify ditching the good it will do elsewhere.

The best argument for a minimum wage is Labour's welfare-to-work strategy. A lot more people will be urged off Income Support and into work topped up with Family Credit. But without a minimum wage the state will subsidise ever more marginal, lame-duck or Scrooge employers.

INTRODUCING
A NEW APPROACH
TO HEALTH.
VISITING
A DOCTOR WHEN
YOU'RE WELL.

As any doctor will tell you, prevention is better than cure – and that's the simple idea behind BUPA Health Monitor: a programme of preventive care which can help detect the early signs of health problems.

There's a full health assessment – covering a range of tests from blood analysis to cardiovascular fitness. We then continue to monitor your health and even assign you a personal health adviser to help you maintain or improve your overall level of health.

BUPA Health Monitor is available to everyone, not just BUPA members. For further information, or to make an appointment, phone 0800 616 029 quoting reference BUPA E2, or fill in the coupon below. But do it now, while you're well – and stay that way.

Please post to BUPA Health Monitor, FREEPOST, London WC1X 9BB, Reference BUPA E2. You don't even need a stamp.

Name (Mr/Ms/Ms/Ms)

Address

Postcode

Tel (day) (eve)

You're amazing. We want you to stay that way.

BUPA Health Monitor

obituaries / gazette

Sir Gordon Cox

Sir Gordon Cox was one of the early pioneers of X-ray crystallography. He served his country with distinction both in peace and war and his exemplary concern for his younger colleagues greatly facilitated their development and professional progress.

He was the son of Ernest Henry Cox, a man of varied occupations including that of a market gardener, which may have been responsible for his son's respect for the productive potential of soil when prudently husbanded, and also a man of varied fortunes, including a period of bankruptcy in which the family "all managed", in a way which may have strengthened the boy's natural steadiness and fortitude.

From the City of Bath Boys' School he proceeded to Bristol University to read Physics. The commodious and well-equipped Wills Physics Laboratory was under the direction of Professor A.M. Tyndall, who was determined to make a world-class department and who succeeded brilliantly because of his nose for talented young people and his persuasive tongue.

Cox remained proud of Bristol physics throughout his life. He was early drawn to the study of the arrangement of atoms in crystals. The method

of achieving this by X-ray diffraction had been given a sound foundation by Sir William Bragg and his son Lawrence, for which they shared the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1915. By the mid-Twenties Lawrence had established in Manchester a research school in X-ray crystallography, mainly of minerals and metals, and his father was Director of the Davy-Faraday Laboratory at the Royal Institution where he was applying similar X-ray methods to determine structures, but with an emphasis on non-metallic and principally organic compounds.

It was to the latter of these two crystallographic meccas that the young Cox went and was assigned the task of finding how the carbon atoms in benzene, known from chemical evidence to be in a ring, were disposed. Were they arranged symmetrically, each equidistant from its two neighbours in the ring? Was that ring flat and if not was it buckled to form an armchair or boat-like structure? After some difficulties trying to keep the benzene crystalline because it is liquid at room temperature, Cox established beyond doubt that the carbon atoms were at the corners of a regular hexagon, a conclusion of considerable importance for theoretical

chemists. Many years later in Leeds he encouraged studies to discover something of the motion of those molecules in their lattice. Professor W.N. Haworth, Head of the Birmingham Chemistry Department, then engaged with E.L. Hirst on the study of the carbohydrates, was quick to see the potential of Cox's work and appointed him to his staff in 1929.

In the next decade Cox used X-ray techniques to settle many important structures including, on the organic side, that of Vitamin C which is now recognised to have a vitally important role of anti-oxidant in cellular processes; whilst in inorganic chemistry, and stimulated by his older colleague William Wardlaw, Cox elucidated how molecules at the corners of squares are arranged round a metal ion sitting at the centre. Without this early knowledge of the possible configurations of structures of this kind it is arguable that understanding the important role of metal ions sequestered in large biological molecules might well have been delayed, and possibly the seminal work of Max Perutz in elucidating the structure of very large molecules, which began the whole field of molecular biology, would have been postponed. Cox had marked loyalty to

wards his native Somerset and to England and he joined the Territorial Army, being commissioned in 1936. When the Second World War came he was recruited to scientific work, becoming Superintendent of the Special Operations Executive laboratories where he was involved *inter alia* in making devices for use by our agents and the Maquis in Europe. In this quasi-secret world he met Victor (Lord) Rothschild, then in M15, and they struck up a warm friendship which later led to Rothschild, who was for 10 years Chairman of the Agricultural Research Council (ARC) to recruit Cox into membership of that body.

The war over, Cox took up the Chair of Inorganic and Structural Chemistry at Leeds University and in the next 15 years became a much respected member of the "establishment" of that university. As Professor of Physical Chemistry, and therefore his close colleague for 10 of those years, I felt he was at his happiest either in the department or in less formal groups such as Lyddon Hall, of which he was a Regent and where the Warden Ronnie Morgan was his firm friend. He was very popular with his research colleagues, inevitably known as Cox's Pippins, and he

was very good at creating the right conditions for their research to flourish, was unselfish over publications and far-sighted both in developing new techniques and important ideas.

Always seeking higher speed of data collection and interpretation, Cox early saw the importance of the electronic computer as a substitute for the slow and laborious manual or punched card calculations. He secured an ICL Pegasus computer for Leeds early in the Fifties. He also recruited mathematicians such as Durward Cruickshank. He fostered new techniques like nuclear magnetic resonance, and was not best pleased when an application to the Department for Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR) for funds to develop this method, which became of enormous world-wide importance, was turned down on the grounds that the DSIR Committee "could see no conceivable use" for it. Fascinated to know how the earth's crystalline minerals were formed, he therefore established a high pressure laboratory and links with the geochemists in Leeds.

In 1960 he left Leeds to become Secretary of the ARC. Initially he was happy, perhaps feeling closer to the earth his father had tilled. He became less

content when, as a result of the 1965 Science and Technology Act, the research councils, previously funded by the Treasury, were transferred to the Department of Education and Science, and the old Advisory Council on Scientific Policy was replaced by the Council for Scientific Policy (CSP). As a member and latterly chairman of the CSP and its successor body, the Advisory Board for the Research Councils, my working contact with Cox was renewed and I could sense his feeling of concern at what he perceived to be threats to his independence from the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries. When, during his retirement, Victor Rothschild, as chairman of the Government's Central Policy Review Staff (Think Tank), proposed to apply his customer/contractor relationship, Cox saw this as a major threat to the survival of the ARC and their friendship cooled markedly.

Cox married first Lucie Baker by whom he had a son Keith and a daughter Patricia, both of whose entries in *Who's Who* are on an adjacent page to his. Six years after Lucie's death he married Professor Mary Truter, a former Leeds "Pippin", and they had many happy years together during which they were



Cox: far-sighted and popular with his 'Pippins'. Photograph: Geoffrey Argent

regular attendees at the meetings of the British Association.

Characteristically, by voluntary service to the Royal Institution, Gordon Cox tried to repay his debt to that body, which he saw as the springboard for his career. For myself I shall always be grateful to have known so modest and capable a man and one so upright and entirely devoid of envy.

Fred Dalton

Pasqualino de Santis

It is easy to confuse great settings with great cinematography. The film *A Month by the Lake*, which is currently showing in cinemas, has some exquisite individual images of the Lake Como region of Italy captured by the eminent cinematographer Pasqualino de Santis (who was sometimes credited as Pasquale de Santis), but this will not be remembered as one of his notable achievements as there is no compelling sense of unity or stylisation on the visual side.

However, one has only to think back on the contrasting look of such films as Franco Zeffirelli's *Romeo and Juliet* (1968), Luchino Visconti's *Morte a Venezia* ("Death in Venice", 1971) or Francesco Rosi's *Cadaveri eccellenti* ("Illustrious Corpses", 1975) and *Cristo si è fermato a Eboli* ("Christ Stopped at Eboli", 1979) to recognise the extraordinary skill and versatility of De Santis.

Each of these directors prized his ability to adapt setting, and mould light and shadow, to create a particular atmosphere and feeling appropriate to the subject in hand. His work on *Romeo and Juliet*, using much hand-held camera, blurring locations with a backlot reconstruction of Verona's piazza in the 15th century, won

him the year's Academy Award for Cinematography.

The much younger brother of the noted director Giuseppe de Santis, Pasqualino gained a job as assistant camera operator on one of his brother's productions after graduating from film school in Rome in 1948. This was the start of a long association with the cinematographer Piero Portalupi, a man with formidable practical skills who taught him that every problem had a technical solution.

In 1958, De Santis became a camera operator and so on linked up with the director of photography Gianni Di Venanzo on such films as Antonioni's *La Notte* (1960), Rosi's *Salvatore Giuliano* (1961), Losey's *Eva* (1962) and Fellini's *8½* (1963).

From Di Venanzo, De Santis learned how to overcome difficulties by taking risks and experimenting. He shot part of Rosi's bullfighting picture *Il Momento della verità* ("The Moment of Truth", 1965) after Di Venanzo left, and completed the Rex Harrison comedy *The Honey Pot* (1966, directed by Joseph Mankiewicz) when Di Venanzo died suddenly.

Always wearing around his neck the light filter that had belonged to Di Venanzo, De Santis then became Rosi's regular

cinematographer. He provided the serene images of the fairytale *C'era una volta* ("Cinderella - Italian Style", 1967), then adopted magnesium lighting for the First World War trenches of *Uomini contro* ("Men Against", 1970), handling camera and harsh visuals for the rapidly paced corruption drama *Il Caso Mattei* ("The Mattei Affair", 1972), and gangster biopic *Lucky Luciano* (1973), and a hard, dry look for *Christ Stopped at Eboli*, with its story of political exile in the mountains, before switching to the luminous brightness of *Tre fratelli* ("Three Brothers", 1980). "He chooses the right light for the right place," said Rosi.

He was Visconti's last regular cameraman, and worked on four of the director's last five films: *La Caduta degli Dei* ("The Damned", 1969), *Death in Venice*, *Gruppo di famiglia in un interno* ("Conversation Piece", 1974) and *L'Innocente* ("The Innocent", 1976).

On *Death in Venice*, the director demanded a flamboyant, conspicuous visual style. De Santis had most difficulty achieving an unreal, shimmering impression of the beach, finally solving the problem by stretching large sheets and sails everywhere to filter the sun's rays. His work on this film so im-

pressed Robert Bresson that he was summoned to France, to shoot the veteran director's *Lancelotti du Lac* (1974) and *Le Diable probablement* ("The Devil, Probably", 1977).

Although he operated the camera on many black-and-white films, De Santis always had to work in colour as a director of photography. He sometimes sought to suppress colour, and for *Ettore Scola's Una giornata particolare* ("A Special Day", 1977), he not only persuaded the director to adopt a sober visual style but memorably created a subdued, near monochrome impression to suit the 1938 setting.

Less active in recent years, in the late Eighties De Santis rejoined Rosi for another social drama, filmed in exotic locations, *Cronaca di una morte annunciata* ("Chronicle of a Death Foretold", 1987) and, fittingly, he had rejoined Rosi earlier this year on the director's latest venture, *La Trecca* ("The Trecca", based on the book by Primo Levi), and died of a heart attack in the Ukraine while still working on the film.

Allen Eyles

Pasqualino de Santis, cinematographer: born Rome, Italy 24 April 1927; died Ukraine 23 June 1996.



Gray: the problem of Englishness

his devoted partner Annie Carver and a summer of cricket with his stepson Gordon.

Colin MacCabe

Piers Michael Davidson Gray, English scholar: born London 26 May 1947; died London 28 June 1996.

Bobby Keetch, footballer, died London 29 June, aged 54. Joined Fulham as a defender in 1959 and played briefly for QPR before retirement in 1969. Opened the theme restaurant Football Football in London earlier this year.

Bob (R.L.) O'Ryan, jockey, died Malton, North Yorkshire, aged 79. Won the Champion Hurdle on Distel and the Ritz Club Chase on Dunsborough on the same day at Cheltenham in 1946.

Louis Ulrich, mountaineer, died Yakima, Washington 22 June, aged 96. Credited with a number of first ascents in Washington state, including Ulrich's Couloir on Mount Stuart.

George Snell, immunogeneticist, died Bar Harbor, Maine 6 June, aged 82. Awarded the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in 1980 for his work on genes that control cellular response.

Piers Gray

Piers Gray was one of the most gifted literary critics of his generation. He was also the most witty, erudite and perceptive of companions, someone whose vast learning and hard-won wisdom would as easily illuminate a cricket match as a poem, a social gathering as a philosophical thesis.

His father had alternated work as a pathologist between England and Canada and Gray started his studies in philosophy at Dalhousie University in Canada. Literature, however, was always his passion and F.R. Leavis the model for criticism. To Cambridge then he came and matriculated at Trinity College in 1967, where Theo Redpath was Director of Studies in English.

If his early perspective was a classic Leavisian which seemed

anachronistic to fellow students in Cambridge of the late Sixties, this fundamental commitment to the analysis of the individual life expressed in language was soon to be philosophically deepened and historically enriched.

The assiduous undergraduate scholar had been little affected by either the politics or the culture of May 1968, but as a more relaxed graduate student his perspective broadened so that his investigation of T.S. Eliot's early philosophical idealism was informed by deep engagement with Walter Benjamin and the thought of Henri Bergson's meditations on matter and memory that was so vital to both the German thinker and Anglo-American poet.

The matter of his dissertation, supervised by Jeremy Fryne,

was the central paradox of the idealist tradition in which Eliot was philosophically formed. How could one move from the incommunicable opacities of individual experience to the possibilities of historical and social being? Gray's dissertation, published as *T.S. Eliot's Intellectual and Poetic Development 1909-1922* (Harvester, 1982), remains the best single introduction to Eliot's thought and its relation to the early poetry. It also makes clear that Eliot's Anglo-Catholic solution, which linked individual and society through the church, was simply unacceptable.

This unacceptability was made the more evident to Gray after he joined the English department of Hong Kong University at the beginning of 1977.

The initial contact with Chinese culture was liberating, as was the immersion in a department where both language and linguistics were taken seriously. Eliot's Eurocentrism, once dismissed as intellectually untenable, was now perceived as politically wicked.

Gray turned to the problem of how an anti-Semitic American had come to speak for an Englishman which discounted the world. For Gray a major part of the answer was to be found in the First World War and the way in which Gray's own chosen ethnicity had foundered in the trenches. His unjustly neglected *Marginal Men* (Macmillan, 1991) examines through the disparate works of Ivor Gurney, Edward Thomas and J.R. Ackers the themes of emotional and

spiritual impasses in which Englishness all but ended.

The impasses were, unfortunately, all too real for Gray himself. The early engagement with China turned to a sulky hopelessness, the pleasures of the languages and linguistic department, and in particular the presence of Roy Harris (who came from the Oxford chair of Linguistics), turned to despair at the grind of teaching English literature to students for whom English was a second language. And alcohol became his master.

The thought continued to develop that the methods of Leavisism were applied, with deep linguistic and historical knowledge across a range of text which would have appalled the Cambridge critic. Oscar Wilde's dialogue at his trial with the

prosecuting counsel Edward Carson, Stalin's theory of linguistics, the use of language in American pulp fiction: all these were submitted to the most acute and brilliant analysis. But the work went largely unrecognised, the ovals unpublished, the plays unperformed and Gray was finally invalided out of the university at the end of last year.

It would be simple to talk of a wasted life, but so to do would be to fall into the clichés of language Piers Gray so despised. He died just after leaving one close friend's party, and preparing to go to another, in the middle of sharing the joys of England's progress through Euro 96 with his beloved brother Simon and eagerly awaiting the arrival from Hong Kong of

Births, Marriages & Deaths

BIRTHS

SLADEN: On 28 June, to Sarah (née Hayter) and Angus, a son, Archie Jack Murray, a brother for Olivia and George.

DEATHS

BAZELEY: George, peacefully at home on 27 June. Cremation and celebration of his life on Thursday 4 July at 3.30pm, at Westleigh Crematorium, Bristol. No flowers please, but donations if desired to the Bristol Oncology Open Summer Appeal, c/o F. Woodruff, Funeral Directors, 192 Badminton Road, Clapton Heath, Bristol.

GRAY: Piers Michael Davidson, aged 49 years, on Friday 28 June at St Mary's Paddington. Beloved of many. Funeral to be announced.

Birthdays

The Princess of Wales, 35; Mr Dan Aykroyd, actor, 44; Miss Genevieve Bujold, actress, 54; Sir Alan Campbell, former diplomat, 77; Miss Leslie Caron, actress, 65; Mr Wayne David, MP, 39; Miss Olivia de Havilland, actress, 80; Mr Trevor Eve, actor, 45; Lady Faulner of Downpatrick, former Governor for Northern Ireland, BBC, 71; Sir Colin Figueres, former deputy secretary, Cabinet Office, 71; Lord Gishborough, Lieutenant of North Yorkshire, 69; Mr John Gould, composer and musical comedian, 55; Mr Farley Granger, actor, 71; Mr Hans Werner Henze, composer, 70; Lt-Col Sir John Hage, former Gentleman Usher to the Queen, 97; Viscount Leverhulme, former Lord-Lieutenant of Chester, 81; Mr Carl Lewis, athlete, 35; Sir Kenneth Lewis, former MP, 80; Miss Jean Marsh, actress, 62; General Sir Thomas Pearson, former Commander-in-Chief, Allied Forces, Northern Europe, 82; Mr Sydney Pollock, film director, 62; Mr Tom Robinson, songwriter, singer and guitarist, 46; Miss Joan Sadler, former Principal, Cheltenham Ladies' College, 69; Mr Peter Walwyn, racing trainer, 63; The Very Rev Alan Webster, former Dean of St Paul's, 78; Mr Malcolm Wilks MP, 49.

Anniversaries

Births: Baron Gottfried Wilhelm von Leibniz, philosopher and mathematician, 1646; George Sand

(Amandine-Aurore Lucile (Dupin), Baronne Dudevant), novelist, 1804; Louis Blériot, aviator, 1872; Sir Nigel Ross Playfair, actor and manager, 1874; Charles Laughton, actor, 1899; Amy Johnson, aviator, 1903; Dennis Charles Goodpastor, inventor, 1860; Allan Pinkerton, founder of Pinkerton's Detective Agency, 1838; Hamlet Beecher Stowe, author of *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, 1836; Erik Alfred Leslie Sate (Eric Sate), composer, 1925; Alphonse Marie-Léon Daudet, novelist, 1942; Juan Domingo Perón, Argentine president, 1974. On this day: Sir Thomas More was put on trial, 1535; King William III defeated the Jacobites under James II at the Battle of the Boyne, 1690; addressing the Linnean Society, Charles Darwin announced his theory of evolution, 1858; the Battle of Gettysburg (American Civil War) began, 1863; Queen Victoria unveiled the Albert Memorial in London, 1872; the Union of South Africa was formed, with Dominion status, 1910; the first Variety Command Performance took place at the Palace Theatre, London, 1912; the Battle of the Somme began, 1916; the first test of nuclear bombs began over Bikini Atoll, 1946; the Prince of Wales's Investiture was held at Caernarfon Castle, 1959. Today is the Feast Day of Saints Aaron and Julius, St Cyprianus or Cyprian, St Epiphanius or Epiphanius, St Gall of Clermont, St Oliver Plunkett, St Servanus or Serv, St Shemus, St Simeon Salus and St Thierry or Theodor of Mont d'O.

Lectures

Victoria and Albert Museum: Anne Hobbs, "Aspects of Beatrix Potter", 2.30pm.

Dinners

Lord Mayor of Westminster: The Lord Mayor of Westminster, Mr Robert Davis, hosted a dinner yesterday evening in Westminster Council House, London SW1, on the eve of the Annual Civic Service.

English-Speaking Union: The Rev Ernest Nicholson, Provost of Oriel College, Oxford, was the guest of honour and speaker at the Opening Dinner of the International Summer Conference of the English-Speaking Union held yesterday evening at Oriel College, Oxford. Mr Chris Ward also spoke.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Queen, Colonel-in-Chief, presents New Colours to the 1st Battalion, the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders at Bordon Barracks, Bordon, and over the new Scottish Office building at Victoria Quay, Leith. The Duke of Edinburgh, Prince and Princess of Wales, will be at the Palace of Holyroodhouse for young people who have achieved the Gold Standard in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, and have a reception at the Palace of Holyroodhouse; attend a luncheon at the location of the North Atlantic Salmon Convention in Edinburgh; and in Perth and Tintock. The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, attends a dinner at Edinburgh Castle. The Princess Royal, Prince, and Princess of Wales, attend a luncheon at the Palace of Holyroodhouse; attend a luncheon at the location of the North Atlantic Salmon Convention in Edinburgh; and in Perth and Tintock. The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, attends a dinner at Edinburgh Castle. The Princess Royal, Prince, and Princess of Wales, attend a luncheon at the Palace of Holyroodhouse; attend a luncheon at the location of the North Atlantic Salmon Convention in Edinburgh; and in Perth and Tintock. The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, attends a dinner at Edinburgh Castle. The Princess Royal, Prince, and Princess of Wales, attend a luncheon at the Palace of Holyroodhouse; attend a luncheon at the location of the North Atlantic Salmon Convention in Edinburgh; and in Perth and Tintock. The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, attends a dinner at Edinburgh Castle. The Princess Royal, Prince, and Princess of Wales, attend a luncheon at the Palace of Holyroodhouse; attend a luncheon at the location of the North Atlantic Salmon Convention in Edinburgh; and in Perth and Tintock. The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, attends a dinner at Edinburgh Castle. The Princess Royal, Prince, and Princess of Wales, attend a luncheon at the Palace of Holyroodhouse; attend a luncheon at the location of the North Atlantic Salmon Convention in Edinburgh; and in Perth and Tintock. The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, attends a dinner at Edinburgh Castle. The Princess Royal, Prince, and Princess of Wales, attend a luncheon at the Palace of Holyroodhouse; attend a luncheon at the location of the North Atlantic Salmon Convention in Edinburgh; and in Perth and Tintock. The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, attends a dinner at Edinburgh Castle. The Princess Royal, Prince, and Princess of Wales, attend a luncheon at the Palace of Holyroodhouse; attend a luncheon at the location of the North Atlantic Salmon Convention in Edinburgh; and in Perth and Tintock. The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, attends a dinner at Edinburgh Castle. The Princess Royal, Prince, and Princess of Wales, attend a luncheon at the Palace of Holyroodhouse; attend a luncheon at the location of the North Atlantic Salmon Convention in Edinburgh; and in Perth and Tintock. The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, attends a dinner at Edinburgh Castle. The Princess Royal, Prince, and Princess of Wales, attend a luncheon at the Palace of Holyroodhouse; attend a luncheon at the location of the North Atlantic Salmon Convention in Edinburgh; and in Perth and Tintock. The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, attends a dinner at Edinburgh Castle. The Princess Royal, Prince, and Princess of Wales, attend a luncheon at the Palace of Holyroodhouse; attend a luncheon at the location of the North Atlantic Salmon Convention in Edinburgh; and in Perth and Tintock. The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, attends a dinner at Edinburgh Castle. The Princess Royal, Prince, and Princess of Wales, attend a luncheon at the Palace of Holyroodhouse; attend a luncheon at the location of the North Atlantic Salmon Convention in Edinburgh; and in Perth and Tintock. The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, attends a dinner at Edinburgh Castle. The Princess Royal, Prince, and Princess of Wales, attend a luncheon at the Palace of Holyroodhouse; attend a luncheon at the location of the North Atlantic Salmon Convention in Edinburgh; and in Perth and Tintock. The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, attends a dinner at Edinburgh Castle. The Princess Royal, Prince, and Princess of Wales, attend a luncheon at the Palace of Holyroodhouse; attend a luncheon at the location of the North Atlantic Salmon Convention in Edinburgh; and in Perth and Tintock. The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, attends a dinner at Edinburgh Castle. The Princess Royal, Prince, and Princess of Wales, attend a luncheon at the Palace of Holyroodhouse; attend a luncheon at the location of the North Atlantic Salmon Convention in Edinburgh; and in Perth and Tintock. The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, attends a dinner at Edinburgh Castle. The Princess Royal, Prince, and Princess of Wales, attend a luncheon at the Palace of Holyroodhouse; attend a luncheon at the location of the North Atlantic Salmon Convention in Edinburgh; and in Perth and Tintock. The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, attends a dinner at Edinburgh Castle. The Princess Royal, Prince, and Princess of Wales, attend a luncheon at the Palace of Holyroodhouse; attend a luncheon at the location of the North Atlantic Salmon Convention in Edinburgh; and in Perth and Tintock. The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, attends a dinner at Edinburgh Castle. The Princess Royal, Prince, and Princess of Wales, attend a luncheon at the Palace of Holyroodhouse; attend a luncheon at the location of the North Atlantic Salmon Convention in Edinburgh; and in Perth and Tintock. The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, attends a dinner at Edinburgh Castle. The Princess Royal, Prince, and Princess of Wales, attend a luncheon at the Palace of Holyroodhouse; attend a luncheon at the location of the North Atlantic Salmon Convention in Edinburgh; and in Perth and Tintock. The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, attends a dinner at Edinburgh Castle. The Princess Royal, Prince, and Princess of Wales, attend a luncheon at the Palace of Holyroodhouse; attend a luncheon at the location of the North Atlantic Salmon Convention in Edinburgh; and in Perth and Tintock. The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, attends a dinner at Edinburgh Castle. The Princess Royal, Prince, and Princess of Wales, attend a luncheon at the Palace of Holyroodhouse; attend a luncheon at the location of the North Atlantic Salmon Convention in Edinburgh; and in Perth and Tintock. The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, attends a dinner at Edinburgh Castle. The Princess Royal, Prince, and Princess of Wales, attend a luncheon at the Palace of Holyroodhouse; attend a luncheon at the location of the North Atlantic Salmon Convention in Edinburgh; and in Perth and Tintock. The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, attends a dinner at Edinburgh Castle. The Princess Royal, Prince, and Princess of Wales, attend a luncheon at the Palace of Holyroodhouse; attend a luncheon at the location of the North Atlantic Salmon Convention in Edinburgh; and in Perth and Tintock. The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, attends a dinner at Edinburgh Castle. The Princess Royal, Prince, and Princess of Wales, attend a luncheon at the Palace of Holyroodhouse; attend a luncheon at the location of the North Atlantic Salmon Convention in Edinburgh; and in Perth and Tintock. The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, attends a dinner at Edinburgh Castle. The Princess Royal, Prince, and Princess of Wales, attend a luncheon at the Palace of Holyroodhouse; attend a luncheon at the location of the North Atlantic Salmon Convention in Edinburgh; and in Perth and Tintock. The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, attends a dinner at Edinburgh Castle. The Princess Royal, Prince, and Princess of Wales, attend a luncheon at the Palace of Holyroodhouse; attend a luncheon at the location of the North Atlantic Salmon Convention in Edinburgh; and in Perth and Tintock. The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, attends a dinner at Edinburgh Castle. The Princess Royal, Prince, and Princess of Wales, attend a luncheon at the Palace of Holyroodhouse; attend a luncheon at the location of the North Atlantic Salmon Convention in Edinburgh; and in Perth and Tintock. The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, attends a dinner at Edinburgh Castle. The Princess Royal, Prince, and Princess of Wales, attend a luncheon at the Palace of Holyroodhouse; attend a luncheon at the location of the North Atlantic Salmon Convention in Edinburgh; and in Perth and Tintock. The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, attends a dinner at Edinburgh Castle. The Princess Royal, Prince, and Princess of Wales, attend a luncheon at the Palace of Holyroodhouse; attend a luncheon at the location of the North Atlantic Salmon Convention in Edinburgh; and in Perth and Tintock. The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, attends a dinner at Edinburgh Castle. The Princess Royal, Prince, and Princess of Wales, attend a luncheon at the Palace of Holyroodhouse; attend a luncheon at the location of the North Atlantic Salmon Convention in Edinburgh; and in Perth and Tintock. The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, attends a dinner at Edinburgh Castle. The Princess Royal, Prince, and Princess of Wales, attend a luncheon at the Palace of Holyroodhouse; attend a luncheon at the location of the North Atlantic Salmon Convention in Edinburgh; and in Perth and Tintock. The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, attends a dinner at Edinburgh Castle. The Princess Royal, Prince, and Princess of Wales, attend a luncheon at the Palace of Holyroodhouse; attend a luncheon at the location of the North Atlantic Salmon Convention in Edinburgh; and in Perth and Tintock. The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, attends a dinner at Edinburgh Castle. The Princess Royal, Prince, and Princess of Wales, attend a luncheon at the Palace of Holyroodhouse; attend a luncheon at the location of the North Atlantic Salmon Convention in Edinburgh; and in Perth and Tintock. The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, attends a dinner at Edinburgh Castle. The Princess Royal, Prince, and Princess of Wales, attend a luncheon at the Palace of Holyroodhouse; attend a luncheon at the location of the North Atlantic Salmon Convention in Edinburgh; and in Perth and Tintock. The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, attends a dinner at Edinburgh Castle. The Princess Royal, Prince, and Princess of Wales, attend a luncheon at the Palace of Holyroodhouse; attend a luncheon at the location of the North Atlantic Salmon Convention in Edinburgh; and in Perth and Tintock. The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, attends a dinner at Edinburgh Castle. The Princess Royal, Prince, and Princess of Wales, attend a luncheon at the Palace of Holyroodhouse; attend a luncheon at the location of the North Atlantic Salmon Convention in Edinburgh; and in Perth and Tintock. The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, attends a dinner at Edinburgh Castle. The Princess Royal, Prince, and Princess of Wales, attend a luncheon at the Palace of Holyroodhouse; attend a luncheon at the location of the North Atlantic Salmon Convention in Edinburgh; and in Perth and Tintock. The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, attends a dinner at Edinburgh Castle. The Princess Royal, Prince, and Princess of Wales, attend a luncheon at the Palace of Holyroodhouse; attend a luncheon at the location of the North Atlantic Salmon Convention in Edinburgh; and in Perth and Tintock. The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, attends a dinner at Edinburgh Castle. The Princess Royal, Prince, and Princess of Wales, attend a luncheon at the Palace of Holyroodhouse; attend a luncheon at the location of the North Atlantic Salmon Convention in Edinburgh; and in Perth and Tintock. The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, attends a dinner at Edinburgh Castle. The Princess Royal, Prince, and Princess of Wales, attend a luncheon at the Palace of Holyroodhouse; attend a luncheon at the location of the North Atlantic Salmon Convention in Edinburgh; and in Perth and Tintock. The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, attends a dinner at Edinburgh Castle. The Princess Royal, Prince, and Princess of Wales, attend a luncheon at the Palace of Holyroodhouse; attend a luncheon at the location of the North Atlantic Salmon Convention in Edinburgh; and in Perth and Tintock. The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, attends a dinner at Edinburgh Castle. The Princess Royal, Prince, and Princess of Wales, attend a luncheon at the Palace of Holyroodhouse; attend a luncheon at the location of the North Atlantic Salmon Convention in Edinburgh; and in Perth and Tintock. The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, attends a dinner at Edinburgh Castle. The Princess Royal, Prince, and Princess of Wales, attend a luncheon at the Palace of Holyroodhouse; attend a luncheon at the location of the North Atlantic Salmon Convention in Edinburgh; and in Perth and Tintock. The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, attends a dinner at Edinburgh Castle. The Princess Royal, Prince, and Princess of Wales, attend a luncheon at the Palace of Holyroodhouse; attend a luncheon at the location of the North Atlantic Salmon Convention in Edinburgh; and in Perth and Tintock. The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, attends a dinner at Edinburgh Castle. The Princess Royal, Prince, and Princess of Wales, attend a luncheon at the Palace of Holyroodhouse; attend a luncheon at the location of the North Atlantic Salmon Convention in Edinburgh; and in Perth and Tintock. The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, attends a dinner at Edinburgh Castle. The Princess Royal, Prince, and Princess of Wales, attend a luncheon at the Palace of Holyroodhouse; attend a luncheon at the location of the North Atlantic Salmon Convention in Edinburgh; and in Perth and Tintock. The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, attends a dinner at Edinburgh Castle. The Princess Royal, Prince, and Princess of Wales, attend a luncheon at the Palace of Holyroodhouse; attend a luncheon at the location of the North Atlantic Salmon Convention in Edinburgh; and in Perth and Tintock. The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, attends a dinner at Edinburgh Castle. The Princess Royal, Prince, and Princess of Wales, attend a luncheon at the Palace of Holyroodhouse; attend a luncheon at the location of the North Atlantic Salmon Convention in Edinburgh; and in Perth and Tintock. The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, attends a dinner at Edinburgh Castle. The Princess Royal, Prince, and Princess of Wales, attend a luncheon at the Palace of Holyroodhouse; attend a luncheon at the location of the North Atlantic Salmon Convention in Edinburgh; and in Perth and Tintock. The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, attends a dinner at Edinburgh Castle. The Princess Royal, Prince, and Princess of Wales, attend a luncheon at the Palace of Holyroodhouse; attend a luncheon at the location of the North Atlantic Salmon Convention in Edinburgh; and in Perth and Tintock. The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, attends a dinner at Edinburgh Castle. The Princess Royal, Prince, and Princess of Wales, attend a luncheon at the Palace of Holyroodhouse; attend a luncheon at the location of the North Atlantic Salmon Convention in Edinburgh; and in Perth and Tintock. The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, attends a dinner at Edinburgh Castle. The Princess Royal, Prince, and Princess of Wales, attend a luncheon at the Palace of Holyroodhouse; attend a luncheon at the location of the North Atlantic Salmon Convention in Edinburgh; and in Perth and Tintock. The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, attends a dinner at Edinburgh Castle. The Princess Royal, Prince, and Princess of Wales, attend a luncheon at the Palace of Holyroodhouse; attend a luncheon at the location of the North Atlantic Salmon Convention in Edinburgh; and in Perth and Tintock. The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, attends a dinner at Edinburgh Castle. The Princess Royal, Prince, and Princess of Wales, attend a luncheon at the Palace of Holyroodhouse; attend a luncheon at the location of the North Atlantic Salmon Convention in Edinburgh; and in Perth and Tintock. The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, attends a dinner at Edinburgh Castle. The Princess Royal, Prince, and Princess of Wales, attend a luncheon at the Palace of Holyroodhouse; attend a luncheon at the location of the North Atlantic Salmon Convention in Edinburgh; and in Perth and Tintock. The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, attends a dinner at Edinburgh Castle. The Princess Royal, Prince, and Princess of Wales, attend a luncheon at the Palace of Holyroodhouse; attend a luncheon at the location of the North Atlantic Salmon Convention in Edinburgh; and in Perth and Tintock. The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, attends a dinner at Edinburgh Castle. The Princess Royal, Prince, and Princess of Wales, attend a luncheon at the Palace of Holyroodhouse; attend a luncheon at the location of the North Atlantic Salmon Convention in Edinburgh; and in Perth and Tintock. The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, attends a dinner at Edinburgh Castle. The Princess Royal, Prince, and Princess of Wales, attend a luncheon at the Palace of Holyroodhouse; attend a luncheon at the location of the North Atlantic Salmon Convention in Edinburgh; and in Perth and Tintock. The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, attends a dinner at Edinburgh Castle. The Princess Royal, Prince, and Princess of Wales, attend a luncheon at the Palace of Holyroodhouse; attend a luncheon at the location of the North Atlantic Salmon Convention in Edinburgh; and in Perth and Tintock. The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, attends a dinner at Edinburgh Castle. The Princess Royal, Prince, and Princess of Wales, attend a luncheon at the Palace of Holyroodhouse; attend a luncheon at the location of the North Atlantic Salmon Convention in Edinburgh; and in Perth and Tintock. The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, attends a dinner at Edinburgh Castle. The Princess Royal, Prince, and Princess of Wales, attend a luncheon at the Palace of Holyroodhouse; attend a luncheon at the location of the North Atlantic Salmon Convention in Edinburgh; and in Perth and Tintock. The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, attends a dinner at Edinburgh Castle. The Princess Royal, Prince, and Princess of Wales, attend a luncheon at the Palace of Holyroodhouse; attend a luncheon at the location of the North Atlantic Salmon Convention in Edinburgh; and in Perth and Tintock. The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, attends a dinner at Edinburgh Castle. The Princess Royal, Prince, and Princess of Wales, attend a luncheon at the Palace of Holyroodhouse; attend a luncheon at the location of the North Atlantic Salmon Convention in Edinburgh; and in Perth and Tintock. The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, attends a dinner at Edinburgh Castle. The Princess Royal, Prince, and Princess of Wales, attend a luncheon at the Palace of Holyroodhouse; attend a luncheon at the location of the North Atlantic Salmon Convention in Edinburgh; and in Perth and Tintock. The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, attends a dinner at Edinburgh Castle. The Princess Royal, Prince, and Princess of Wales, attend a luncheon at the Palace of Holyroodhouse; attend a luncheon at the location of the North Atlantic Salmon Convention in Edinburgh; and in Perth and Tintock. The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, attends a dinner at Edinburgh Castle. The Princess Royal, Prince, and Princess of Wales, attend a luncheon at the Palace of Holyroodhouse; attend a luncheon at the location of the North Atlantic Salmon Convention in Edinburgh; and in Perth and Tintock. The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, attends a dinner at Edinburgh Castle. The Princess Royal, Prince, and Princess of Wales, attend a luncheon at the Palace of Holyroodhouse; attend a luncheon at the location of the North Atlantic Salmon Convention in Edinburgh; and in Perth and Tintock. The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, attends a dinner at Edinburgh Castle. The Princess Royal, Prince, and Princess of Wales, attend a luncheon at the Palace of Holyrood

Helped along by its involvement in Two Dogs also-lemonade and last year's hot summer it made more than £1m in its first six months.

On Wednesday Lord Weinstock will probably report for the last time as chief executive

of the giant General Electric Co. He is being succeeded by George Simpson from Lucas Industries who is putting the final touches to the merger with Varsity, the US car parts group. Mr Simpson should take over in September.

GEC, where Lord Weinstock has ruled since he created the group in the 1960s, putting through the spectacular AEI takeover, is expected to produce £945m, up from £907m.

MFL, the flatpack furniture chain, is likely to announce lower profits today, say £60m against £66.1m. And **Gibbon**, the printing materials supplier, should manage £2.4m on Thursday, up from £2.1m.

**Stock market reporter
of the year**

Year	Share Price (pence)
1985	500
1986	550
1987	480
1988	550
1989	650
1990	680

Stock		Wheat		Rice	
SYD	Stock	Price	Chg	Yd	P/E Co
2232	Rain PE	348	+5	88	2
24	Farm M Inc	80 1/2	+1	60	4
828	Flaming Inc	128	x	86	100

when it swallowed Courage last year. If Bass, for years the leader of the brewing pack, should succeed in acquiring Carlsberg Tetley, without the infliction of too many Whitehall curbs, it will recapture top spot.

Cider maker Merrydown, reporting Friday, should be handsomely back in the black after last year's £2.7m loss.

MFL, the flatpack furniture chain, is likely to announce lower profits today, say £60m against £66.1m. And **Gibbon**, the printing materials supplier, should manage £2.4m on Thursday, up from £2.1m.

The Independent Index

The index allows you to access real-time share prices by phone from Seag. Simply dial 0691 123 335, followed by the 4-digit code printed next to each share. To access the full

FTSE 100 - Real-time	00	sterling Rates	04	Privatisation Issues	30
UK Stock Market Report	01	Bullion Report	05	Water Shares	36
UK Company News	02	Wall St Report	20	Electricity Shares	40
European Exchange	03	Tokyo Market	21	High Street Banks	41

Anyone with a tone-dial telephone can use this service. For a detailed description of the Independent Index, including its portfolio facility, phone 0891 123 333. For assistance, call our helpline 0171 873 4975 (9.30am - 5.30pm). Calls cost 33p per minute (cheap rate), and 49p at all other times. Call charges include VAT.

Interest Rates

UK	Germany	US	Japan
Base	Discount	Prime	Discount
Finance	Lombard	Discount	Belgium
Intervention	Canada	Fed Funds	Discount
Rate	Rate	Rate	Control

Country	Instrument	Rate	Country	Instrument	Rate	
Denmark	Discount	800%	Sweden	10-Day Repo	7.25%	
Netherlands	Discount	500%	Sweden	Discount	150%	
Advances	Discount	280%	Repo (Net)	630%	Lombard	425%

Midt Values		Weekly				Index		Midt Values		Weekly				Index				
EMA	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E Ratio	EMA	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E Ratio	EMA	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E Ratio	
808	Index	14 1/2	0		25	2098	781	Lyons Hdp	29	+5	25	198	781	Lyons Hdp	29	+5	25	198
101	Jammyes Pw	91			35	277	1012	Mt Dena Mgt	18	+3	38	0	1012	Mt Dena Mgt	18	+3	38	0
5295	Land Suce	805	+4.8		62	29	5293	Micro 4	480			29	5293	Micro 4	480			29

2628	Lith Net Svc	185	+	55	3385	Harper	128	+	08	.
2701	MEPC	405	.	50	206 2940	McDonald Info	79	+	21	.
3322	McKay Spec	125	.	52	180 3319	Mico Focus	523	+	02	.
704	Merchile Int	81	.	22	84 3348	Micromag	97	.	56	16
2008	Merrillfield	20	.	3	360 4569	Miegs	778	+	29	15 258
4823	Mitubishi	120	.	22	28	Mico Group	367	.	14	08
1400	Mobility	305	.	3	80 3070	M.P.C.	100	.	3	25

1954	Aluminum	68	74	10	10	3493	450			
1954	Chiles Pop	61			236	3588	2029	Page 14	330	+2 18 159
422	Oil Estimer	64				3570	100	Pasty	282	+33 12 253
1958	PSR	105			62	5726	103	Permy	355	+10 25 220
1945	Real Hops	394	-	19		3834	522	Pernie	165	+4 26
195	Respir Land	54				4063	188	Pro-ile	153	+2 38 137
195	Poplar Prie	245	7	43	158	5727	220	Product	34	5 24

850	Reggie Estabro	27 1/2	53	280	NOJ Hight	263	5	84	132
425	Reggie Pops	27 1/2	53	157	Rachis	63	4	27	144
359	Reggie	60	4 1/2	21	3620	Real Time	184	25	31
17	Reggie Estabro	61	29	219	4293	Real Time	183	5	19
729	Reinhold	39	5	38	528	Relevance Story	204	4 1/2	33
548	Shells Gordon	54	43	18	3627	Relevant	408	1	13
582	Real Man	78	6	63	3565	Remo Do	55	5	18

715	Shattabury	16	-	15	19	4392	432	Rolls & N	300	+10	19	289
1028	Bought Est	220	-	48	20	4038	528	Sage	480	+3	08	238
217	Blount, JCo	205	-	3	38	4042	743	Schlesinger (2)	255	+3	43	187
282	Smith James	189	-	64	19	4078	651	Schmidt B	150	+4	31	121
339	Southern P	25	-	3	19	4080	2022	Schultz Apple	200	-	1	1
523	Spallholz	183	-	1	25	383	4845	Sears Co	732	+2-6	19	265
525	Spillholz	80	-	2	48	37	4080	Sears Co	542	-	1	175

[illegible][illegible]

2091	Penn Penn	7%	+½	1	806	WYNN	B1		-10	10	101
713	Budgers	43%	-	33	154	9583	Cable & Wls	546	A-1	29	101
492	Dukens	9%	+½	37	468	2204	MC Telecom	10	+4	39	101
8230	Daily Farm	52%	+½	73	78	1	123008	NEXX	129	+	52
712	Fempak	33%	-	53	80	3080	Charge	225½	.6		
1540	Fossilton	61	-	50	100	140	13220	Southern	282	-7	02
2998	Futter	106	-	39	110	1425	Telnet	101	+		

1708	Cowles	237	+1	43	133	2680	1275	Vedatara	287	+4	27	340
1556	Omings	185	-6	34	12	274						
2691	Island Pt	133	-4	43	10	266						
607	John Lundy	8		23		402						
7049	Mark Shaw	450	+8	55	37	332	463	AlmappW	137	-	45	127
223	M & W	136	-6	32	18	337	1258	Allen Ind	217	-4	42	33
1690	Minerwin W	152	-3	17	17	3420	2308	Beldt (H&E)	166	+1	68	321

1925	Mudin & Puk	140	54	65	3540	180	Ermer	145	5	61	121
1926	Peak Ponds	132	5	57	3389	754	Bridgton Gr	146	5	33	125
1927	Rob Weeman	132	54	21	998	647	Chamberlain Pipe	147	47	1	101
1928	Salisbury	379	516	46	100 3904	1801	Chambers	234	51	32	146
1929	Teco	284	54	40	130 4837	12023	Coast Viole	152	54	84	129
1930	Thomson	500	5	42	101 5045	3719	Courtside Rac	359	47	53	123
1931	W. L. H.	100	54	66	54 4445	1008	Dawson Inc	82	54	6	243

2003	2002	2001	2000	1999	1998	1997	1996	1995	1994	1993	1992	1991	1990	1989	1988	1987	1986	1985	1984	1983	1982	1981	1980	1979	1978	1977	1976	1975	1974	1973	1972	1971	1970	1969	1968	1967	1966	1965	1964	1963	1962	1961	1960	1959	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	1941	1940	1939	1938	1937	1936	1935	1934	1933	1932	1931	1930	1929	1928	1927	1926	1925	1924	1923	1922	1921	1920	1919	1918	1917	1916	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911	1910	1909	1908	1907	1906	1905	1904	1903	1902	1901	1900	1899	1898	1897	1896	1895	1894	1893	1892	1891	1890	1889	1888	1887	1886	1885	1884	1883	1882	1881	1880	1879	1878	1877	1876	1875	1874	1873	1872	1871	1870	1869	1868	1867	1866	1865	1864	1863	1862	1861	1860	1859	1858	1857	1856	1855	1854	1853	1852	1851	1850	1849	1848	1847	1846	1845	1844	1843	1842	1841	1840	1839	1838	1837	1836	1835	1834	1833	1832	1831	1830	1829	1828	1827	1826	1825	1824	1823	1822	1821	1820	1819	1818	1817	1816	1815	1814	1813	1812	1811	1810	1809	1808	1807	1806	1805	1804	1803	1802	1801	1800	1799	1798	1797	1796	1795	1794	1793	1792	1791	1790	1789	1788	1787	1786	1785	1784	1783	1782	1781	1780	1779	1778	1777	1776	1775	1774	1773	1772	1771	1770	1769	1768	1767	1766	1765	1764	1763	1762	1761	1760	1759	1758	1757	1756	1755	1754	1753	1752	1751	1750	1749	1748	1747	1746	1745	1744	1743	1742	1741	1740	1739	1738	1737	1736	1735	1734	1733	1732	1731	1730	1729	1728	1727	1726	1725	1724	1723	1722	1721	1720	1719	1718	1717	1716	1715	1714	1713	1712	1711	1710	1709	1708	1707	1706	1705	1704	1703	1702	1701	1700	1699	1698	1697	1696	1695	1694	1693	1692	1691	1690	1689	1688	1687	1686	1685	1684	1683	1682	1681	1680	1679	1678	1677	1676	1675	1674	1673	1672	1671	1670	1669	1668	1667	1666	1665	1664	1663	1662	1661	1660	1659	1658	1657	1656	1655	1654	1653	1652	1651	1650	1649	1648	1647	1646	1645	1644	1643	1642	1641	1640	1639	1638	1637	1636	1635	1634	1633	1632	1631	1630	1629	1628	1627	1626	1625	1624	1623	1622	1621	1620	1619	1618	1617	1616	1615	1614	1613	1612	1611	1610	1609	1608	1607	1606	1605	1604	1603	1602	1601	1600	1599	1598	1597	1596	15
------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	----

4837	Ashley L	130	+5	55	544	1894	238	Haggins J	125	-4	35	93
4857	Austin Fred	210	+3	30	255	5783	343	Hartstone Gp	10 1/2	•	58	325
550	Bassie L	144	+4.8	58	120	1784	59	Helene	5 1/2	•	57	37
350	Benschman	5	•	•	•	•	532	Hocking P	35 1/2	+2	25	181
499	Bernale	74	-16	24	508	875	121	Holmes	8	+5	25	18
158	Bismarck	10	+6	30	127	4538	517	James H	55	•	100	45
823	Blum Lee	172	-4	35	•	•	408	John Paul	46 1/2	•	28	44

340	Body Shop	18	x+2	4	18	184	10	Lambert Wash	12	-	12
341	Boys	57	x+7	4	4	156	80	Lambert Ygd	209	x+2	55 143
342	Brown (4)	349	x+9	20	212	885	758	Larson Cpl	258	x+8	48 126
343	Brown/Last	8	-	3	-	884	87	Leslie Ware	55	-	57 320
344	Burn	125	x+1	61	253	2320	584	Liter	35	-	53
345	Canine	15	-	2	-	334	239	Lowie FH	23	-	1 158

9528	Capitron	391	-7	43	200	202	482	Meeting Ind	28 1/2	-	81	144
9529	Chadler	214	-1	18	270	202	482	Meeting Ind	28 1/2	-	81	144
9530	Church & Co	400	+5	38	128	206	533	Meeting Ind	28	+1 1/2	59	-
9531	Dixon Cole	123	-2	52	95	4978	240	Portland Op	175	+3	59	-
9532	Duke Myer	230	-4	46	-	-	463	Portland Op	175	+1	58	151
9533	Edwards	34	-	52	70	2182	109	Plastics	64	+2	59	-
9534	Coatsworth	886	-80	1	-	2285	183	Revolus	50	+ 1/2	22	17

82	Dunes Ests	24	-	18	294	63	Homestead	77	-	65	62
8280	Dwona	629	+1	18	294	6355	Richards	81	+1	41	81
875	Eco Sp	74	-	18	229	3491	Shenwood Sp	82	-10	55	83
165	Essex Plan	66	-	5	55	5333	Whish	85	-1	42	83
132	Egan	201	+5	66	268	268	Sinclair	79	-1	57	834
487	Fire Ant Cov	522	+2	40	157	2333	Sinclair	84	-	52	155
526	Ford Earth	84	-	4	27	147	Stearns & Fair	74	+1	166	125

295	French Con	207	x	12	2633	209	UK Safety	23	-	43	-
296	Clavis Co	78	x2	35	143	147	Living (Fort)	232	x5	85	27
304	Goldberns	285	x25	10	105	67	Warrington	71	-	46	14
35732	Ex Univ	654	x	5	123	338	Yosajde	300	x	23	123
4000	Hee of Fraser	Qa	x-5	46	339	2694					
2285	JIB Sports	285	x-10	14	215	4752					
42044	Wardlowe	147	x-13	21	210	4598					

904	Liberty	400	+5	08	2884	3025	Air Ports	229		29	24
9832	Lynette Chen	462	4	27	265	3472	Al London	130	-1	41	142
1793	WFI	4		3	280	2959	BAA	496	+2 1/2	30	30
12540	Melita & Sp	470	+1	30	194	2932	Bt Airways	254		81	148
3325	Merricks J	550	-31	30	140	3336	Canary Isl	2	+1		
90	Mechant R	20	+3			3332	Central Europe	1	+ 1/2		
						333	Chapman H	100	>	35	70

2328	Moist Stone	763	-	18	354	330	Dart	231	+2	32
2329	Nest	553	+25	25	236	3455	Dawson Group	191	-7	57
24	Older Gt	41	-1	-	-	3335	Emotional	95	-9	-
2712	Others	557	-	35	3555	Friction	525	-	35	
280	Owens/Roberts	714	-1	-	3572	For J	130	+1	81	
28	CS Holdings	45	+3	43	2040	Fourth Pass	554	-25	25	
2524	OS	25	+1	50	3570	No. 1000	555	-7	25	

135562	Steel Pouch	234	1	19	1000	Chiverna	240	4	21	103	
733	Signal Group	25			3782	Goodie Dm	267	8	24	147	
135612	Smith WH	45	-14	41	238	4047					
3551	Sathyak	330	-10	17	281	507	Jacobi	82	2	19	288
13572	Schweizer	93	+16	26	15	423	Mayne Nicks	375	8	47	153
526	Shylo	18		32	23	491	Mussey Docks	319	+1	38	155
						2354	NFC	151	+1	4	235
						1877	Net Funnels	48	-32	25	156

4283	T & S Stores	76	- 4	424	483	182	None	165	-	13	16
4284	Ti Flack	827	-	27	190	4229	None	165	-	13	16
4285	Vendome L&L	556	-1	22	2265	580	Omnia Group	457	+2	39	52
348	W&W Group	34	+1	18	-	1932	Omnia Wilco	93	-	45	52
2028	Wilco	59	5.36	36	-	4488	P S O	468	-17	28	128
4290	Wild of Liv	60	- 4	25	-	4542	P&S yls	251	-	43	7
							Reichart (b)	298	-14	84	7

NO	Company	2001	%	2000	2001	%	2000
100	Wynn & Co.	201	+1	12	12	100	100
101	Wynn & Co.	201	+1	12	12	100	100
102	Wynn & Co.	201	+1	12	12	100	100
103	Wynn & Co.	201	+1	12	12	100	100
104	Wynn & Co.	201	+1	12	12	100	100
105	Wynn & Co.	201	+1	12	12	100	100
106	Wynn & Co.	201	+1	12	12	100	100
107	Wynn & Co.	201	+1	12	12	100	100
108	Wynn & Co.	201	+1	12	12	100	100
109	Wynn & Co.	201	+1	12	12	100	100
110	Wynn & Co.	201	+1	12	12	100	100
111	Wynn & Co.	201	+1	12	12	100	100
112	Wynn & Co.	201	+1	12	12	100	100
113	Wynn & Co.	201	+1	12	12	100	100
114	Wynn & Co.	201	+1	12	12	100	100
115	Wynn & Co.	201	+1	12	12	100	100
116	Wynn & Co.	201	+1	12	12	100	100
117	Wynn & Co.	201	+1	12	12	100	100
118	Wynn & Co.	201	+1	12	12	100	100
119	Wynn & Co.	201	+1	12	12	100	100
120	Wynn & Co.	201	+1	12	12	100	100
121	Wynn & Co.	201	+1	12	12	100	100
122	Wynn & Co.	201	+1	12	12	100	100
123	Wynn & Co.	201	+1	12	12	100	100
124	Wynn & Co.	201	+1	12	12	100	100
125	Wynn & Co.	201	+1	12	12	100	100
126	Wynn & Co.	201	+1	12	12	100	100
127	Wynn & Co.	201	+1	12	12	100	100
128	Wynn & Co.	201	+1	12	12	100	100
129	Wynn & Co.	201	+1	12	12	100	100
130	Wynn & Co.	201	+1	12	12	100	100
131	Wynn & Co.	201	+1	12	12	100	100
132	Wynn & Co.	201	+1	12	12	100	100
133	Wynn & Co.	201	+1	12	12	100	100
134	Wynn & Co.	201	+1	12	12	100	100
135	Wynn & Co.	201	+1	12	12	100	100
136	Wynn & Co.	201	+1	12	12	100	100
137	Wynn & Co.	201	+1	12	12	100	100
138	Wynn & Co.	201	+1	12	12	100	100
139	Wynn & Co.	201	+1	12	12	100	100
140	Wynn & Co.	201	+1	12	12	100	100
141	Wynn & Co.	201	+1	12	12	100	100
142	Wynn & Co.	201	+1	12	12	100	100
143	Wynn & Co.	201	+1	12	12	100	100
144	Wynn & Co.	201	+1	12	12	100	100
145	Wynn & Co.	201	+1	12	12	100	100
146	Wynn & Co.	201	+1	12	12	100	100
147	Wynn & Co.	201	+1	12	12	100	100
148	Wynn & Co.	201	+1	12	12	100	100
149	Wynn & Co.	201	+1	12	12	100	100
150	Wynn & Co.	201	+1	12	12	100	100
151	Wynn & Co.	201					

[illegible]

322	Bt Dale Mt	157	-4	43	223	157	207	Chesler W	92	+2	44	228
125	Blackie Serv	164	-	26	178	1978	389	Dan Valley W	380	-	43	34
225	Burns Post	442	-3	25	285		913	East Suncy	468	+2.5	50	
438	CAC	888	+30	88	363	2152	140	Harpis W	200	+0.5	44	54
123	CPT Group	183	+1	30	345	404	305.3	Hed	716	-0	23	130
215	Captin G	578	-3	13	320	4348	101	McKart Hdon	598	+0.5	51	

9599	Glenn	323	+2	53	194	2080	Swain Twp	54	+10	34	0
959	Great Comp	57	-4	.	307	29	South State	295	+20	37	0
254	Corporate Bldg	161	+2	24	15	408	South West	636	+8	33	64
256	Coultz Confg	53	.	47	21	491	Southern	322	-5	40	0
2576	Davis Serv	250	-6	47	13	235	Thames	547	+14	63	78
145	Delphi	555	+40	10	28	235	Timber	59	+2	67	13

127	EW Fact	70	.	13	100	1400	7022	Waters	357	+3	55	
128	Exec Comm Prc	80	.	10	100	2443	13443	Waters	658	-	46	146
143	FI Group	385	-25	13	486		252	York Waters	340	-	43	
164	Food Grp	66	+6	81	69	250		York Waters, A	300	-	49	
172	General	58	+4	43	225	3351						
189	General Res	57	-0	68	242	4182						
190	General Res	101	.	90	100	1100						

1974	High Group	100	+2	20	222	3371
2381	Hong Fobes	222	+30	41		2505
238	Ingram	102	+1	25	100	2052
1952	JBA Holdings	30	-5	27	320	4453
354	Kellogg Corp	100	-9	43		3071
559	Kendall Sys	451	+47	22		3255
319	Leasimilair	125	+20	.		3543

1953	Leigh Int	228	+18	-47	350
1954	Logica	648	-6	19	379

100

[illegible]

House prices to rocket 10% in 'mini-boom'

TOM STEVENSON
City Editor

House prices in Greater London and the South are set to rise by 10 per cent a year for the next two years as the housing market embarks on a forecast "mini-boom".

Rising real incomes, together with building society windfalls, lower taxes and the best affordability for 25 years mean prospects are brighter than at any time since the late 1980s. The forecast from Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, the German-owned investment bank, chimes with the "golden scenario" expected by Ernst & Young's latest economic model, showing consumer spending growing at its fastest rate for eight years. Spending is forecast to grow at 4 per cent in 1997, up from 2.7

per cent this year. Both Deutsche and Ernst & Young expect the strength of the housing market and high street to lead to a rise in interest rates next year, especially if the Chancellor is tempted to drop the cost of borrowing even lower this year for political reasons.

Paul Droop, chief economist at the Ernst & Young item club, an independent economic modeller, warned: "Interest rates will almost certainly need to rise in 1997 if the UK is to turn the bright short-term outlook into enduring low-inflation growth. Any further interest rate cuts this year will only make these subsequent increases all the more important."

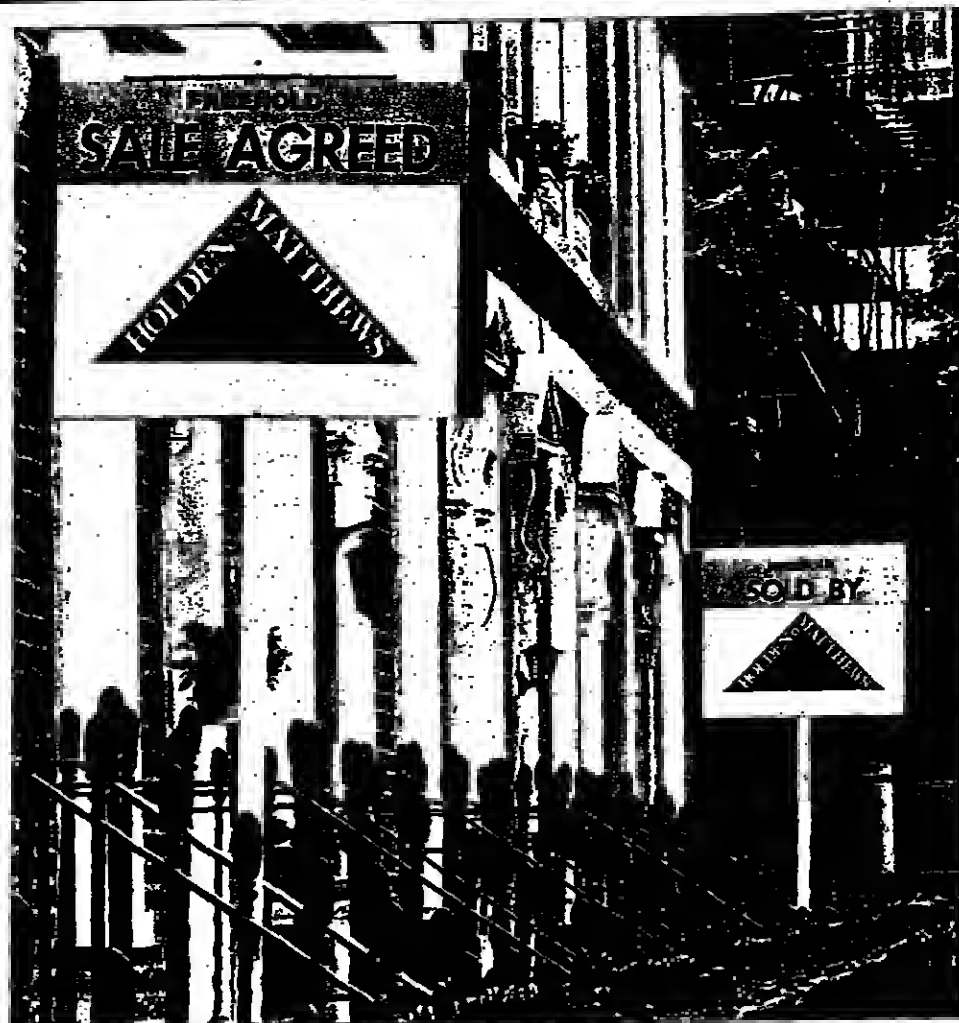
Ernst & Young sees an improving housing market as being an important factor in an

acceleration in the UK economy's growth rate from 2.2 per cent this year to 3.3 per cent in 1997. Falling interest rates, tax cuts and improving export market conditions, as Europe recovers, are expected to revitalise the economic environment over the next 18 months and allow unemployment to fall below 2 million.

Although inflation is expected to fall below the Government's target of 2.5 per cent by early next year and to average around 2.25 per cent during 1997, the anticipated robust consumer recovery could see inflation rising above 4 per cent in 1998. Ernst & Young believes the Government will need to raise interest rates to 7 per cent by the autumn of 1997 to keep a lid on rising prices.

According to Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, the signs of housing recovery have been building steadily this year, with the Halifax house price index up 10 per cent on an annualised basis so far this year and mortgage approvals at a seven-year high. The Halifax index has risen for 10 consecutive months, so that prices in May were 4.6 per cent higher than a year ago. That represents the highest level of house price inflation since October 1989.

Deutsche's report, which is published today, added: "The question now is not so much



Selling like hot cakes: Analysts expect a substantial rise, particularly in the South

whether the recovery can be sustained, more what type of recovery it will be and what chance there is of a return to a housing boom."

Factors acting against a boom similar to those experienced in the early 1970s and late 1980s include changing demographics, cuts in tax breaks such as Miras and a hangover from the sharp fall in house prices in the early 1990s which led to 330,000 homes being repossessed, 650,000 households being unable to keep up with mortgage repayments and 2 million living with mortgage debts higher

than the value of their homes. Despite fewer first-time buyers and greater caution among buyers and lenders, however, the bank still expects prices on average to rise by 6 per cent this year, 8 per cent in 1997 and almost 9 per cent the following year.

The greatest potential for house price growth lies in Greater London and the South, where Deutsche calculates values are lower compared with their long-term equilibrium level. While houses in the West Midlands are within 5 per cent of the long-run relationship

between prices and incomes, in London they could be as much as 30 per cent undervalued on that measure.

As a result, Deutsche forecasts average price rises in the capital of 11 per cent in both 1997 and 1998 after an 8.5 per cent increase this year. If Deutsche's forecasts are achieved, a house worth £150,000 at the beginning of 1996 will have appreciated to £220,000 by the end of 1998.

The effect of rises of that magnitude would be to almost eliminate negative equity by the end of that year.

Sugar serves Betacom an ACE

TOM STEVENSON
City Editor

Amstrad will announce today the injection of its loss-making consumer electronics business into Betacom, the separately quoted telephone equipment distributor it controls. The deal is being seen as a possible precursor to a takeover by Alan Sugar of Betacom, allowing the Amstrad chairman to continue his long involvement with the electronics industry after the planned takeover by Pison of the company he founded.

Although the transfer of Amstrad Consumer Electronics (ACE) to a company which is 67 per cent-owned by Amstrad is on the face of it little more than an internal housekeeping affair, it is understood to be crucial to the putative takeover that emerged last week.

Pison has said that its interest in Amstrad lies in Dancall, the group's mobile telephone manufacturing operation, its cash pile and possibly Vigen, a computer manufacturer. The deal was never any doubt that ACE, which has failed to make a profit for three years, would be disposed of in some way.

News of a quick and easy exit from consumer electronics would reassure investors in Pison who last week pushed the personal organiser maker's shares 25p lower to 350p as they worried about the effect the loss-making businesses would have on the enlarged group. The takeover, for shares, of

a company almost as large as itself, is seen as a high-risk strategy for one of the stock market's most successful companies in recent years. David Porter, Pison's chairman, said last week that he viewed the acquisition of Dancall as a key step in maintaining Pison's position in the fast-converging worlds of computing and telecommunications.

Betacom's shares are expected to rise sharply today as investors reflect on the potential to absorb ACE's revenues at little additional cost. Possibly 100 of ACE's 130 staff would not be taken on by Betacom and the reduction in overheads is expected to push ACE back into the black.

That would boost profits at Betacom, which last year made £430,000. In anticipation of some sort of deal, its shares rose 5p to 14.5p last week, valuing the company at just £9.7m.

Buying Betacom would represent fairly small change for Alan Sugar, who will be left with about 17 per cent of the enlarged Pison after any deal is struck between the two companies. At a proposed takeover price of 200p a share, Mr Sugar's stake in Amstrad is valued at around £80m.

So far speculation over his future has centred on Tottenham Hotspur, the premier football club his chairs. Analysts believe he harbours ambitions to create a rival, in commercial terms, to Manchester United, valued at more than £250m.



Railtrack contracts to cost 4,000 jobs

MICHAEL HARRISON

More than 4,000 jobs are likely to be shed by rail maintenance companies following the privatisation of the industry and the signing of tough new contracts with Railtrack, it has emerged.

Under the new agreements with Railtrack, owner of the country's track, signalling and stations, the seven former British Rail infrastructure maintenance units are facing a 20 per cent reduction in revenues over the next five years.

The contracts, together with track renewal work, are worth £1bn a year and are the area of costs that Railtrack has identified for the biggest savings.

Eddie King of Amey Railways, new owner of BR's former Western maintenance unit covering the Paddington to Penzance line, estimated that it would have to cut its 2,500-strong workforce by about 600 over the next five years.

The six other maintenance companies will have to make similar or even bigger job cuts to improve productivity and offset the reductions in revenues. The Western maintenance unit had already shed 1,600 jobs in the two years leading up to privatisation but some of the other maintenance units are still operating with inflated BR-style staff levels.

Job cuts are also likely among the six former BR track renewal units which have about £200m worth of contracts with Railtrack a year.

Instead of building in annual reductions in the revenues they can earn, Railtrack has agreed that increasing amounts of work can be put out to competitive tender.

Kingfisher among potential predators eyeing Wickes

MATTHEW HORSMAN

Leading DIY retailers, including Kingfisher, are taking a close look at troubled Wickes, and might consider bids for the company once the extent of the profits overstatement scam that emerged last week is confirmed. Wickes hopes to report within two weeks.

"Of course we are taking an interest, although it is too early to expect anything dramatic," a source at Kingfisher, which owns the B&Q chain, said yesterday. Despite the problems, "Wickes are quite highly thought of, and are an excellent brand".

Another DIY industry source added: "Wickes would be a welcome addition to many companies in the sector. They have a reasonable market share, and good quality shops".

But Boots, owner of AG Stanley and Do It All, is unlikely to be interested, insiders indicated yesterday. The company has just bought the half of Do It All it did not already own from

WH Smith, and has said it will seek to close as many as 60 shops. It is believed the company is not looking to expand further in the DIY sector.

Auditors are continuing their investigations, this week into controversial discount schemes between suppliers and buyers at Wickes, attempting to calculate the amount by which the company's profits have been overstated in the accounts.

Insiders suggested yesterday that the cumulative overstatement since 1990 was likely to equal the company's operating profits of £30.8m in 1995.

The extent of the scam has shocked some industry executives, although one said yesterday that "there had been industry rumours for some time" because of the company's ability to weather even significant downturns in the economy.

The overstatement relates principally to payments made by suppliers to secure contracts with Wickes. Common in the industry, the "golden hello" payments in Wickes' case were



Out: Henry Sweetbaum

often payable over two or three years, even though the company accounted for them in a single year, thus inflating profits and thereby bonuses for management.

Similarly, suppliers were allowed to increase prices in subsequent years to offset cash payments earmarked for in-store promotions and other marketing schemes.

At the heart of the scam is the apparent connivance of at least

some suppliers. Investigators are also trying to determine who at Wickes was directing the large-scale cover-up needed to keep auditors in the dark year after year. "We are trying to determine who knew, and when they knew it," a source close to the investigation said yesterday.

The inquiry widened last week to include the former finance director, Trevor Llewellyn, now at building materials company Caradon. Two executives were also suspended last week, although they are helping with the investigation.

Copies of some of the secret agreements were given to Stuart Stradling, the company's current finance director, 10 days ago, prompting last week's dramatic events, including the resignation of Henry Sweetbaum, the group's chairman and chief executive, and a halving of Wickes' share price. By Tuesday, when the shares were suspended, the company was worth just £26m.

Wickes has 108 shops in Britain and 40 on the Continent.

Three million seek Reward

NIGEL COPE

Sainsbury's signed up three million members to its Reward loyalty card in the week following the scheme's launch. The supermarket group said it had achieved the 2-4 per cent sales uplift required for the scheme to cover its costs but the sales increase so far is thought to be at the lower end of expectations.

Sainsbury's hopes the Reward scheme will be taken up by 6-7 million of the 9 million shoppers who pass through its stores every week. That figure would still be less than the 8.5 million customers who hold a Tesco ClubCard, which was launched more than a year ago.

With Sainsbury's claiming that more than 3 million customers hold its ABC card and with Asda testing a scheme in 18 of its stores, it could mean that almost 20 million supermarket cards would be in circulation. Many customers would hold more than one.

The high numbers add weight to the argument that as the number of cards in circulation increases they become less effective. The supermarket groups are under growing pressure to add more and more services and promotions to their schemes to differentiate them.

Sainsbury's launched its Reward scheme on 17 June after chairman David Sainsbury had initially dismissed rivals' versions as nothing more than "electronic Green Shield stamps".

Asda chief executive Archie Norman last week described the mass launch of cards as part of the "culture of sameness" afflicting the industry. He said Asda preferred to offer lower prices on the shelves now.

Jersey moves to protect accountants

ROGER TRAPP

Jersey is expected to pass legislation this week to protect accountants and other professional firms from being wiped out by negligence claims. The move comes amid speculation that the UK government is ready to stem the flight offshore of professionals by introducing its own reform.

The measure due to be debated in the States of Jersey legislature tomorrow has been developed with the aid of big six accountancy firms Price Waterhouse and Ernst & Young. If approved, it will allow

large professional firms registering in the Channel Island to protect the personal assets of partners by becoming limited liability partnerships in much the same way as their US counterparts have done by setting up in the state of Delaware. The Isle of Man and Guernsey are also thought to be planning their own versions of the law.

But the fact that large firms of architects, surveyors and lawyers have expressed interest in following the leading accountants offshore has alarmed Deputy Prime Minister Michael Heseltine, who is known to be concerned that it could reduce

the standing of the City of London as a financial centre.

At recent meetings organised by the Cabinet Office between representatives of the large firms - including KPMG, which has responded to the problem by turning its audit arm into a limited company - and government officials it has been indicated that ministers might be prepared to amend the law.

At present, limited liability partnerships are allowed subject to tight restrictions that render them difficult to operate.

The development is encouraging to the accountancy profession, which saw its lengthy campaign for a change in the law receive a setback earlier this year, when a Law Commission feasibility study commissioned by the Department of Trade and Industry concluded that there was no case for reforming the concept of joint and several liability.

Any initiative by the Government - which could come as early as this week - is unlikely to stop the firms' current plans. One spokesman said the development was "good news", but change could take up to five years to introduce. In that time, a firm could face the "catastrophic claim" they all feared.

STOCK MARKETS

FTSE 100

Index	Close	Week's chg	Change%	52W High	52W Low	YTD%
FTSE 100	3711.00	-11.3	-0.3	3857.10	3639.50	4.09
FTSE 250	4393.20	-87.5	-2.0	4588.80	4015.30	3.43
FTSE 350	1870.90	-12.7	-0.7	1945.40	1816.60	3.94
FT Small Cap	2190.98	-41.5	-1.9	2244.36	1954.06	2.97
FT All Share	1856.33	-14.5	-0.8	1924.17	1791.85	3.86
New York	5654.63	-50.6	-0.9	5778.00	5032.84	2.17
Tokyo	22530.75	-58.2	-0.3	22686.80	19734.70	0.70
Hong Kong	11020.90	+155.6	+1.5	11694.99	10204.87	3.33
Frankfurt	2961.39	+21.3	+0.8	2973.69	2253.36	1.83

Source: FT Information

INTEREST RATES

UK interest rates

Rate	1 Month	3 Month	6 Month	9 Month	12 Month
Bank of England	5.75	5.81	7.00	8.46	8.51
US	5.38	5.54	6.72	6.22	6.81
Japan	0.41	0.69	3.18	2.70	-
Germany	3.25	3.50	6.51	6.93	7.06

Bond Yields

Index	1 Month	3 Month	6 Month	9 Month	12 Month
UK	5.75	5.81	7.00	8.46	8.51
US	5.38	5.54	6.72	6.22	6.81
Japan	0.41	0.69	3.18	2.70	-
Germany	3.25	3.50	6.51	6.93	7.06

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

Index	1 Month	3 Month	6 Month	9 Month	12 Month
Amstrad	1045	49	4.8	Darka Business	458
CMG	658	30	4.8	Wickes	69
Guinness	488	19.5	4.3	T & N	140

CURRENCIES

£/\$

Index	Close	Week's chg	Tr. High	Tr. Low
\$ (London)	1.5538	+1.36c	1.5549	1.5436
\$ (NY)	1.5405	+0.25c	1.5505	1.5405
DM (London)	2.3651	+1.04p	2.425	2.3651
¥ (London)	170.423	+12.582	156.00	156.00
₹ (London)	108.085	+10.655	99.77	99.77

OTHER INDICATORS

Index	Close	Week's chg	Tr. High	Tr. Low
Oil Brent	15.91	+0.85	16.37	15.91
Gold	382.00	-1.65	385.70	382.00
Gold E	248.32	-2.77	242.44	242.44

Revised Interest Rates For Accounts No Longer Open To New Investors.

Amended Investment and Savings Rates. Effective from 1st July, 1996.

Minimum Investment	Gross*	Gross CAR**	Net†
Instant Access Account			
£50,000+	3.40%	-	2.72%
£20,000	3.15%	-	2.52%
£10,000	3.00%	-	2.40%
£5,000	2.50%	-	2.00%
£2,500	2.30%	-	1.84%
£500	2.10%	-	1.68%
£250	0.35%	-	0.28%
£100	0.10%	-	0.08%
Half Yearly Instant Access Account			
£50,000+	3.37%	3.40%	2.70%
£20,000	3.13%	3.15%	2.50%
£10,000	2.98%	3.00%	2.38%
£5,000	2.48%	2.50%	1.93%
£2,500	2.29%	2.30%	1.83%
£500	2.08%	2.10%	1.67%
£250	0.35%	0.35%	0.28%
Monthly Instant Access Account			
£50,000+	3.35%	3.40%	2.68%
£20,000	3.11%	3.15%	2.49%
£10,000	2.96%	3.00%	2.37%
£5,000	2.47%	2.50%	1.93%
£2,500	2.28%	2.30%	1.82%
£1,000	2.08%	2.10%	1.66%
Trident Gross			
£20,000+	4.25%	-	3.40%
£10,000	3.75%	-	3.00%
£5,000	3.25%	-	2.60%
Monthly and Flexi-TESSA (1st issue)			
Monthly-TESSA	5.45% TAX FREE*		
Flexi-TESSA	5.25% TAX FREE*		

*Without UK income tax deducted. **Annual return if monthly interest payments remain in the account. †Assuming rate of income tax at 20%. Interest will be payable net of the applicable rate of income tax (which may be reclaimed by non-taxpayers) or gross, subject to the required registration. CAR and net rates are illustrative only and have been rounded to two decimal places. Rates may vary but are correct at the time of going to press. FOR INFORMATION. Interest rates on some other accounts have also changed from the same date. Details of interest rates paid on other accounts are available from any Britannia branch. You may be unsure as to whether your existing account is the best one for you. If so, please call into your local branch where we will be happy to explain the various schemes in detail.

Britannia
The Sharing Society
Britannia Building Society
Britannia House Leek
Staffordshire ST13 9NG



GAVYN DAVIES

'If technology has changed so that the market value of brawn has declined, while that of brain has risen, then the providers of brawn will, in the short term, find that they are in trouble'

Incomes surge fails to allay deeper insecurities

The Mori poll in the *Times* last week showed economic optimism – the feel-good factor – improving to its best level since August 1994. But with the Tory share of the vote jumping 4 percentage points in that part of the Mori poll taken after England's victory over Spain in Euro 96, there were suspicions that football, rather than economics, may have been responsible. If so, the feel-good factor may have returned with a vengeance on Thursday morning. Speaking personally, there is no chance whatever of my even bating at economic optimism to any opinion pollster this side of the World Cup in France. So there.

Others might be more influenced by the fact that real disposable income is rising by 4 per cent a year, the fastest rate since 1988. With the balance of payments deficit for last year having been revised down to under £3bn, there seems little to stop this continuing for a while. A strong cyclical rise in consumer confidence seems virtually assured in the run-up to the election, which is why logic still seems to dictate that polling day will be delayed until the last possible minute.

Against this background, there is something odd about the persistence of a deep mood of economic insecurity in the UK – and, indeed, in the US. As Alan Greenspan, chairman of the Federal Reserve, said in a speech on 6 June: "Today, a truly puzzling phenomenon confronts the US economy: the

pervasiveness of job insecurity in the context of an economic recovery that has been running for more than five years, inflation that has been contained, and a layoff rate that is historically quite low. Yet in the face of this seemingly good news, a sense persists that something is fundamentally wrong."

The same points could be made about Britain. Output has been growing for four years, and unemployment is a third lower than the peak reached as long ago as 1986. Nevertheless, we share with America a brooding sense of foreboding and insecurity. Things might be improving for the time being, but there is no sense of reliable advancement for most families. In Mr Greenspan's view the issue is rooted in one of those rare, perhaps once-in-a-century events, a structural technological advance.

The development of transistors and integrated circuits has, on this analysis, created a situation in which abstract ideas have replaced physical brawn as the key human ingredient in the creation of output.

Mr Greenspan points to an apparently trivial fact – that the physical weight of US GDP today is only modestly greater than that of the economy of a century ago, while the value of GDP, adjusted for inflation, is an order of magnitude larger. So what, you may ask? Well, this simple fact surely shows that those who claim there is something special about

physical goods, something magic about manufacturing, are barking up the wrong tree. It is possible to imagine a country producing a huge GDP but one that weighs almost nothing, with the difference being explained by the market value of ideas. Singapore is an example of a small economy moving in that direction, while the US and Britain are examples of larger ones.

If this is what is going on, it could account for the widespread feeling of insecurity in the population. Admittedly, over the long term, technological advance does not create either insecurity or the threat of unemployment, despite the almost universal belief that it does. To see why this cannot be the case, simply consider the fact that there are huge technological advances from one decade to the next, but that there is no long-term rising trend in unemployment observed in the UK or other developed economies. Obviously, the economy eventually finds a way of adjusting the demand for labour to re-absorb new technology, with no long-run change in employment, but a massive long-run advance in living standards. This is why technological development is an unmitigated long-term economic blessing for the economy as a whole.

But the same is not necessarily true of the short term, and certainly not of all members of the population. If technology has changed so that the market value of brawn has de-

clined, while that of brain has risen, then the providers of brawn will, in the short term, find that they are in trouble. The market value of their labour will fall, and this will be reflected in a decline in their real wages (as in the US), or a rise in unemployment (as in continental Europe), or a bit of both (as in the UK).

In the US, some of the consequences of all this have been staggeringly large. For example, since 1979 the real earnings of males with a minimal 12 years of schooling has dropped by 20 per cent, while the initial wage for this group, when they first enter the labour force, has dropped 30 per cent. Other than at times of hyper-inflation, or possibly during the Great Depression, I doubt if there are many examples of such a huge backward step for such a large group of workers in the history of successful capitalist economies.

This immiseration of low-skilled workers contrasts sharply with the experiences of college graduates, who have seen continuing improvements in living standards, and have watched the premium accorded by the jobs market to extra education increasing substantially. Yet even in these privileged groups, which should be the main gainers from the technological revolution, there is also a sense of insecurity. In the UK, part of this is due to the fact that this group is disproportionately to be found in the South-

east, and among homeowners, the two sectors which happened to be the main sufferers from the last recession.

Over time, the memories of these particular shocks should fade – perhaps they are already doing so. But Mr Greenspan reckons there is a deeper force at work. He believes the educated workforce is the group that implements technical advance, and therefore is most aware of the turmoil created by it. Even if the people concerned are the largest gainers from the upsurge in demand for skilled workers, they are also the most aware that incessant turnover and instability are dominating the economy. They fear they will be next to lose their jobs.

Several of Tony Blair's recent speeches have been on this topic, and it is clear that he is well aware of the political opportunities and risks these developments bring with them. The design of social security systems in an environment of constant technical change is one such problem. The need to ensure that private firms devote time and resources to enhance the skills of their workers – particularly difficult to achieve when firms cannot predict how long there will be a demand for any particular type of labour – is another. These deep-seated problems of insecurity will not be solved by a year or two of above average growth in real disposable income, however useful that might be for the Tories' rising chance of re-election.

The boss of Bain & Co tells Roger Trapp of her baptism by fire

True north maps the route to retaining core values

Management consultants are fond of pet phrases, and Orit Gadish is no exception. Hers is "true north". The chairman of Bain & Co, the Boston-based international strategy consultancy, got it from her husband, a successful entrepreneur and keen sailor who has completed a single-handed voyage around the world.

Like other adventurers, British-born Grenville Boyd uses it to distinguish from magnetic north, the direction in which magnetic compasses point. But his wife sees it as a powerful metaphor for sticking to your core values. "I've used it internally for a number of years and people have picked it up," she said on a short trip to London to speak at a conference on business strategies for the next century.

And she feels it has helped the firm through its turnaround earlier this decade. The situation, which led to the organisation losing nearly half its worldwide staff and seeing revenues fall dramatically from an estimated 1989 peak of \$240m, was precipitated by the decision at the end of the 1980s of Bill Bain and seven other founders to leave the organisation they started in 1973 with a large sum of money.

The years 1990 and 1991 saw fierce struggles over the size of that sum, but Ms Gadish insists

there was never a financial crisis and also acknowledges that the experience has given the firm a useful, if unwelcome, insight into the problems suffered by its clients.

Nevertheless, one senses that she regards the episode as over. Instead, she concentrates on as-

outlook, she stands out. Her purple hair, long red finger nails and prominent costume jewellery are much remarked upon. But it is not just her appearance that makes Ms Gadish unusual.

True, she attended Harvard Business School before joining

THE MONDAY INTERVIEW ORIT GADISH

setting that the firm – whose revenues, in keeping with the status as a partnership, are not disclosed – is growing "faster than anybody else", at between 25 and 40 per cent a year.

The other affair which brought the normally low-profile, somewhat stuffy Bain & Co into the limelight was the Guinness scandal. Thanks to the secondment of the firm's Oliver Roux to assist Ernest Saunders in setting strategy, business people gained the impression of the drinks company being over-run with "Bainics". That, she says, was "clearly a mistake I hope we've learned from".

Indeed, many would see the appointment three years ago of Ms Gadish as chairman of the board as an attempt to break with the past.

In an organisation noted for a certain East Coast button-down style and uniformity of

Boston-based Bain in 1977. But there the similarity with most of the thousands of people graduating from the world's management schools ends.

The daughter of an Israeli general whose 75th birthday celebrations she attended at the weekend, she did her own turn in the army (in intelligence) before following up her degree in psychology with a teaching position at her alma mater Hebrew University. A year's study leave in the US resulted in her going out with a Harvard Business School student and coming to the view that she should try that line herself.

Though she spoke little English, she was accepted for the prestigious course and graduated in the top tier with the Brown prize for the most outstanding marketing student.

She was adamant that she wanted to work in New York or London but was persuaded to stay in Boston by the vision Mr Bain put forward when she asked him during her interview what the firm would be doing in five years. From the beginning, she found that the proposition that Mr Bain had was "unique and fascinating".

She admits that the approach to consulting he adopted on giving up his position as lecturer at Boston Consulting Group to go out on his own does not sound revolutionary today. But then the idea that a consultant's product should not be a report but bottom-line results for the client revolutionised the industry.

"It called for a different ap-

proach to how you work with clients. It's not enough to have a great idea. If it doesn't get implemented or can't get implemented, it's not a Bain product," she says.

This emphasis on implementation is now fashionable, though Ms Gadish maintains that few other consultancies are as effective at it as Bain. It means working with people at all levels, rather than concentrating on the executive level favoured by most consultancies.

But then she likes to get her sleeves rolled up. As a strategist, she likes to point out that she has not specialised in any particular industry.

None the less, she did spend an early part of her career in steel, where she reportedly resorted to one old hand's remark about women being unlucky by saying: "You should make sure I go to every one of your competitors."

Even now she spends 70 per cent of her time on client work. But that is typical of the Bain management and stems from a belief that it prevents the most experienced people being removed from where they are most valuable – helping clients – and enables them to keep in touch.

But though her working week often approaches 100 hours, Ms Gadish, who quotes Oscar Wilde in support of her refusal to state her age, is equally adamant that the broad perspective expected of the strategic consultant requires active interests outside the office.

Though she does not often accompany her boat-mad husband because of seasickness, she is an avid reader of history, fiction and science as well as keen theatre goer. Foreign trips often end with boxes of books being shipped home.

While she admits that the psychology training helps her to spot clients' concerns, she attributes her ability to "read" people to her reading of books. Anthony Powell's *A Dance to the Music of Time* is especially insightful, she explains.

IN BRIEF

• Costain is expected to announce progress this week on two substantial cash injections alongside losses of at least £40m. The heavily indebted construction group's shares were suspended at 3p on Wednesday after a 31p plunge forced Costain to reveal that "significant corporate developments" would be announced shortly. Talks are under way with a South-east Asian investor after months of rumours that a big Malaysian construction group was ready to buy the 19.1 per cent stake held by Mohamed Abdulmohsin Kharafi & Sons, Kuwait's largest construction group. A further 19.2 per cent of Costain is in the hands of Raymond International, a Saudi-Arabian contractor involved in pipeline construction. Separately, negotiations are known to be at an advanced stage for the sale of Costain's US coal assets, comprising surface and underground mines in Kentucky.

• Bell Cablemedia yesterday turned up the heat on BT, announcing further deep discounts on residential telephone charges and offering a low line rental rate of just £6.50, compared with £8.26 from BT. From today, all Bell calls will be 25 per cent lower than BT's standard charges, leading to a 20p saving on a 10-minute daytime national call. BT was last week charged with mounting a "dirty tricks" campaign to woo subscribers back from cable operators. Separately, Mercury Communications said it was cutting the price of all international calls, and offering free UK weekend minutes on a sliding scale to users of its SmartCall scheme.

• Royal Dutch Shell, the Anglo-Dutch oil company, has replaced General Motors as leader of the Forbes World Super 50, the magazine's annual ranking of the world's most powerful public companies. Forbes bases its ranking on the best three-out-of-four criteria – rank in sales, profits, assets and market value. In third place this year is Exxon, followed by General Electric, Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi, Toyota, Philip Morris, Ford, IBM and NTT. Of the top 50 firms, 22 are American and 12 Japanese. The magazine also ranks individuals according to their wealth. For the second year in a row, two Americans, Bill Gates and Warren Buffett, topped the ranking of the world's billionaires, with respective net worths of \$18bn and \$15.3bn.



Sleeves rolled up: Orit Gadish believes it is not enough just to have a great idea

Photograph: David Rose

BUSINESS TO BUSINESS

Opportunities

WORK FROM HOME
Highly Profitable One Person Operation
No Selling
6-7 Hours Per Week
Using Home Computer
Full 3 Years Back Files
Full Training Given
Excellent After Sales Service
INTERDATA
2nd Floor, Windsor House
25 St. James's Street, SW1
For Free Information
FREE CALL
0800 827853

Dove
TRAVEL
Start your own Travel Arrangement
Sell a range of travel services including
flights, hotels, car hire, insurance, etc.
20% off your suppliers' rates
For free information contact:
Dove Travel Services Ltd, 111, 113
Riverside, London E14 6JF
For free info ring (0171) 717658

CARBOUCHON
A unique income opportunity
Partners or sole traders
U.K., EUROPE, JAPAN
Highly profitable quality
designer costume jewellery and more
collections.
Unlimited earning potential.
Free training and support
For FREE Catalogue and further details
Telephone: 01223 860001
Fax: 01223 860002
(London/Essex/Leamington)

Products Needed
MARKETING COMPANY
WITH 850 SALES AGENTS
HAS URGENT REQUIREMENTS
FOR GOOD PRODUCTS
Our agents sell on
commission only & cover all
market sectors
01925 330333
NRG Marketing

To advertise
in this
section
please call:
David Owen
on
0171 293 2338

DO YOU LIKE TO NEGOTIATE?

If so, negotiating with creditors for your clients to reduce problem debts could be the perfect business for you.

No Competition & Quick Cash Flow
Mediation and debt negotiation is one of the UK's fastest growing yet least known consultancy areas, offering phenomenal income potential, no competition and quick cash flow.

Turnover £3,500 Per Case
Established 30 years in the UK and US, we carry substantial fees negotiating arrears settlements between debtors and creditors over problem debts which we are able to reduce by up to 70%.

VACOR
50, 52, 54, 56, 58, 60, 62, 64, 66, 68, 70, 72, 74, 76, 78, 80, 82, 84, 86, 88, 90, 92, 94, 96, 98, 100, 102, 104, 106, 108, 110, 112, 114, 116, 118, 120, 122, 124, 126, 128, 130, 132, 134, 136, 138, 140, 142, 144, 146, 148, 150, 152, 154, 156, 158, 160, 162, 164, 166, 168, 170, 172, 174, 176, 178, 180, 182, 184, 186, 188, 190, 192, 194, 196, 198, 200, 202, 204, 206, 208, 210, 212, 214, 216, 218, 220, 222, 224, 226, 228, 230, 232, 234, 236, 238, 240, 242, 244, 246, 248, 250, 252, 254, 256, 258, 260, 262, 264, 266, 268, 270, 272, 274, 276, 278, 280, 282, 284, 286, 288, 290, 292, 294, 296, 298, 300, 302, 304, 306, 308, 310, 312, 314, 316, 318, 320, 322, 324, 326, 328, 330, 332, 334, 336, 338, 340, 342, 344, 346, 348, 350, 352, 354, 356, 358, 360, 362, 364, 366, 368, 370, 372, 374, 376, 378, 380, 382, 384, 386, 388, 390, 392, 394, 396, 398, 400, 402, 404, 406, 408, 410, 412, 414, 416, 418, 420, 422, 424, 426, 428, 430, 432, 434, 436, 438, 440, 442, 444, 446, 448, 450, 452, 454, 456, 458, 460, 462, 464, 466, 468, 470, 472, 474, 476, 478, 480, 482, 484, 486, 488, 490, 492, 494, 496, 498, 500, 502, 504, 506, 508, 510, 512, 514, 516, 518, 520, 522, 524, 526, 528, 530, 532, 534, 536, 538, 540, 542, 544, 546, 548, 550, 552, 554, 556, 558, 560, 562, 564, 566, 568, 570, 572, 574, 576, 578, 580, 582, 584, 586, 588, 590, 592, 594, 596, 598, 600, 602, 604, 606, 608, 610, 612, 614, 616, 618, 620, 622, 624, 626, 628, 630, 632, 634, 636, 638, 640, 642, 644, 646, 648, 650, 652, 654, 656, 658, 660, 662, 664, 666, 668, 670, 672, 674, 676, 678, 680, 682, 684, 686, 688, 690, 692, 694, 696, 698, 700, 702, 704, 706, 708, 710, 712, 714, 716, 718, 720, 722, 724, 726, 728, 730, 732, 734, 736, 738, 740, 742, 744, 746, 748, 750, 752, 754, 756, 758, 760, 762, 764, 766, 768, 770, 772, 774, 776, 778, 780, 782, 784, 786, 788, 790, 792, 794, 796, 798, 800, 802, 804, 806, 808, 810, 812, 814, 816, 818, 820, 822, 824, 826, 828, 830, 832, 834, 836, 838, 840, 842, 844, 846, 848, 850, 852, 854, 856, 858, 860, 862, 864, 866, 868, 870, 872, 874, 876, 878, 880, 882, 884, 886, 888, 890, 892, 894, 896, 898, 900, 902, 904, 906, 908, 910, 912, 914, 916, 918, 920, 922, 924, 926, 928, 930, 932, 934, 936, 938, 940, 942, 944, 946, 948, 950, 952, 954, 956, 958, 960, 962, 964, 966, 968, 970, 972, 974, 976, 978, 980, 982, 984, 986, 988, 990, 992, 994, 996, 998, 1000, 1002, 1004, 1006, 1008, 1010, 1012, 1014, 1016, 1018, 1020, 1022, 1024, 1026, 1028, 1030, 1032, 1034, 1036, 1038, 1040, 1042, 1044, 1046, 1048, 1050, 1052, 1054, 1056, 1058, 1060, 1062, 1064, 1066, 1068, 1070, 1072, 1074, 1076, 1078, 1080, 1082, 1084, 1086, 1088, 1090, 1092, 1094, 1096, 1098, 1100, 1102, 1104, 1106, 1108, 1110, 1112, 1114, 1116, 1118, 1120, 1122, 1124, 1126, 1128, 1130, 1132, 1134, 1136, 1138, 1140, 1142, 1144, 1146, 1148, 1150, 1152, 1154, 1156, 1158, 1160, 1162, 1164, 1166, 1168, 1170, 1172, 1174, 1176, 1178, 1180, 1182, 1184, 1186, 1188, 1190, 1192, 1194, 1196, 1198, 1200, 1202, 1204, 1206, 1208, 1210, 1212, 1214, 1216, 1218, 1220, 1222, 1224, 1226, 1228, 1230, 1232, 1234, 1236, 1238, 1240, 1242, 1244, 1246, 1248, 1250, 1252, 1254, 1256, 1258, 1260, 1262, 1264, 1266, 1268, 1270, 1272, 1274, 1276, 1278, 1280, 1282, 1284, 1286, 1288, 1290, 1292, 1294, 1296, 1298, 1300, 1302, 1304, 1306, 1308, 1310, 1312, 1314, 1316, 1318, 1320, 1322, 1324, 1326, 1328, 1330, 1332, 1334, 1336, 1338, 1340, 1342, 1344, 1346, 1348, 1350, 1352, 1354, 1356, 1358, 1360, 1362, 1364, 1366, 1368, 1370, 1372, 1374, 1376, 1378, 1380, 1382, 1384, 1386, 1388, 1390, 1392, 1394, 1396, 1398, 1400, 1402, 1404, 1406, 1408, 1410, 1412, 1414, 1416, 1418, 1420, 1422, 1424, 1426, 1428, 1430, 1432, 1434, 1436, 1438, 1440, 1442, 1444, 1446, 1448, 1450, 1452, 1454, 1456, 1458, 1460, 1462, 1464, 1466, 1468, 1470, 1472, 1474, 1476, 1478, 1480, 1482, 1484, 1486, 1488, 1490, 1492, 1494, 1496, 1498, 1500, 1502, 1504, 1506, 1508, 1510, 1512, 1514, 1516, 1518, 1520, 1522, 1524, 1526, 1528, 1530, 1532, 1534, 1536, 1538, 1540, 1542, 1544, 1546, 1548, 1550, 1552, 1554, 1556, 1558, 1560, 1562, 1564, 1566, 1568, 1570, 1572, 1574, 1576, 1578, 1580, 1582, 1584, 1586, 1588, 1590, 1592, 1594, 1596, 1598, 1600, 1602, 1604, 1606, 1608, 1610, 1612, 1614, 1616, 1618, 1620, 1622, 1624, 1626, 1628, 1630, 1632, 1634, 1636, 1638, 1640, 1642, 1644, 1646, 1648, 1650, 1652, 1654, 1656, 1658, 1660, 1662, 1664, 1666, 1668, 1670, 1672, 1674, 1676, 1678, 1680, 1682, 1684, 1686, 1688, 1690, 1692, 1694, 1696, 1698, 1700, 1702, 1704, 1706, 1708, 1710, 1712, 1714, 1716, 1718, 1720, 1722, 1724, 1726, 1728, 1730, 1732, 1734, 1736, 1738, 1740, 1742, 1744, 1746, 1748, 1750, 1752, 1754, 1756, 1758, 1760, 1762, 1764, 1766, 1768, 1770, 1772, 1774, 1776, 1778, 1780, 1782, 1784, 1786, 1788, 1790, 1792, 1794, 1796, 1798, 1800, 1802, 1804, 1806, 1808, 1810, 1812, 1814, 1816, 1818, 1820, 1822, 1824, 1826, 1828, 1830, 1832, 1834, 1836, 1838, 1840, 1842, 1844, 1846, 1848, 1850, 1852, 1854, 1856, 1858, 1860, 1862, 1864, 1866, 1868, 1870, 1872, 1874, 1876, 1878, 1880, 1882, 1884, 1886, 1888, 1890, 1892, 1894, 1896, 1898, 1900, 1902, 1904, 1906, 1908, 1910, 1912, 1914, 1916, 1918, 1920, 1922, 1924, 1926, 1928, 1930, 1932, 1934, 1936, 1938, 1940, 1942, 1944, 1946, 1948, 1950, 1952, 1954, 1956, 1958, 1960, 1962, 1964, 1966, 1968, 1970, 1972, 1974, 1976, 1978, 1980, 1982, 1984, 1986, 1988, 1990, 1992, 1994, 1996, 1998, 2000, 2002, 2004, 2006, 2008, 2010, 2012, 2014, 2016, 2018, 2020, 2022, 2024, 2026, 2028, 2030, 2032, 2034, 2036, 2038, 2040, 2042, 2044, 2046, 2048, 2050, 2052, 2054, 2056, 2058, 2060, 2062, 2064, 2066, 2068, 2070, 2072, 2074, 2076, 2078, 2080, 2082, 2084, 2086, 2088, 2090, 2092, 2094, 2096, 2098, 2100, 2102, 2104, 2106, 2108, 2110, 2112, 2114, 2116, 2118, 2120, 2122, 2124, 2126, 2128, 2130, 2132, 2134, 2136, 2138, 2140, 2142, 2144, 2146, 2148, 2150, 2152, 2154, 2156, 2158, 2160, 2162, 2164, 2166, 2168, 2170, 2172, 2174, 2176, 2178, 2180, 2182, 2184, 2186, 2188, 2190, 2192, 2194, 2196, 2198, 2200, 2202, 2204, 2206, 2

SCIENCE

The political row over beef seems to be over, but will we ever know if BSE can be passed to humans? New evidence suggests that even if it can, some of us may be immune – but our chances are 50-50. By **Charles Arthur**

CJD: can your genes save you?

Before you read further, take a coin, pick heads or tails, and flip it – but don't look at the result. Your guess was either wrong or right; and that is how likely you are to be immune to the "new variant" of CJD, if it can be caught from eating beef products infected with BSE. And while the coin remains hidden, that is how much you know about your personal status – immune or susceptible.

TOM S

City Ed

House

don an

by 10 p

ket ei

mini-

Risi-

er wit

falls, l

afford

prospe

any tir

The

Morga

owned

with d

pectac

est co

consu

its fas

Spend

4 per c

Yorkst

R

cc

4

More

to be:

comp

vatisa

the si

tracts

emery

Uo

with

count

static

Britis

tecan

cent r

the m

The

track

flbn

costs

fied f

Ed

ways,

West

ering

zanc

wrou

stron

over

Th

comp

siml

to: in

offse

enue

nanc

1,600

leadi

some

units

flater

Jol

the si

units

worl

rack

In

il're

hey

igrex

if wc

setit

Fi

Fi

Fi

Fi

Fi

Fi

Fi

Fi

Fi

Fi

Fi

Fi

Fi

Fi

Fi

Fi

Fi

Fi

Fi

Fi

Fi

Fi

Fi

Fi

Fi

Fi

Fi

Fi

Fi

Fi

sition of insoluble plaques of the misshapen protein in brain cells, leading initially to loss of cell function and finally to the decay and "spongy" appearance of the brain. Everyone has two copies of the PrP gene in each cell. By chance (more probably, a quirk of evolution), there are two different versions of this gene randomly spread throughout the Caucasian population. The difference occurs at the 129th "codon" of the gene. Each codon is a set of instructions within the gene, and specifies a particular amino acid to be added to the protein being made. In one version of the PrP gene, codon 129 specifies the production of methionine; in the other, it specifies valine. These are known as the "meth" and "val" versions of the PrP gene.

The key to the prion diseases (as BSE and CJD are sometimes known) is shape. Depending on the sequence of amino acids, the protein folds into a particular shape. Substitute one amino acid for another at some point – say, methionine for valine – and you create a differently shaped product.

If you are Caucasian, then because the two versions are randomly spread through the population, there is an equal chance that you have identical copies of the gene. Both copies might be "meth", or both "val". In the standard phrase, you are homozygous for c129. Alternatively, there is a 50 per cent chance that you have one of each PrP gene – that is, you are heterozygous.

And here is the crux – all 12 cases so far identified of vCJD are homozygous for c129 of the PrP gene. Furthermore, previous research suggests strongly that people who are heterozygous have a very low risk of developing prion diseases.

This fact was highlighted recently by John Collinge, head of the Prion Disease Group at Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine, and one of the leading scientists in this field. "We express [produce the PrP protein from] both genes," he said. "It seems that if they are different, then the misshapen version of the protein has more trouble in causing the change in shape of the normal ones. It just doesn't seem to happen. But if the PrP genes are the same, then the change can occur much more easily."

Adriano Aguzzi, of the Institute of Neuropathology at the Universi-



Best of British: But for those exposed to BSE from offal products since 1989, escaping CJD may depend on genetic susceptibility

ty Hospital in Zurich, says the two different original versions of the PrP protein "reduce the efficiency of the conversion [to the misshapen prion form] by reciprocal competition". It may be that one form of the PrP protein does change shape into prions, but that it cannot affect the other form, which retains its function. But here, the science turns into pure hypothesis, since the prion theory still has some gaps – specifically, in how the infectious prion affects the normal PrP protein.

None of this relies on vCJD being derived from BSE, though the experimental data is beginning to accumulate to suggest that it is. James Ironside of the CJD Surveillance Unit said that recent work, in which

macaque monkeys were infected with BSE and showed brain plaques after three years which strongly resembled vCJD, "strengthens the hypothesis". However, earlier experiments with marmoset monkeys given BSE did not produce vCJD plaques. The problem is that if BSE does not cause vCJD, there is no way to prove it. Science can't prove a negative.

But even so, Collinge and Aguzzi seem to suggest that half of us really have nothing to fear, even if BSE is transmissible to humans – which the scientific evidence suggests with growing insistence. But equally, half of us have a great deal to fear, since CJD is fatal and untreatable, and nobody knows what the lower limit is

for exposure to the disease agent. So, would you like to look at your coin now?

In the real world, of course, looking at the coin to find out whether you are really at risk requires genetic testing – an option which is both slow and expensive. Unsurprisingly, the British Government is taking a more pragmatic (and cheaper) approach than widespread genetic testing of everybody's PrP genes – a measure which would hardly reduce public concern and would probably cost as much again as the planned cattle cull.

A private company has been hired by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAFF) to find out just what happened between 1980 and 1989 to all the hits of cows

– the head, brain, spinal cord, spleen and lymph glands – that since 1989 have been declared "Specified Bovine Offals" (SBOs), and banned from human and animal consumption. The Medicines Commission, the specialist committee of scientific advisors to the Government on BSE and CJD, requested the study some months ago, though budgetary limits meant it has only just begun. "The medicines on SEAC want to have information about the most likely route of infection, if there was one," explained a MAFF spokeswoman last week. "So the research is looking not just at how SBOs were used in food and pharmaceuticals, but also in paints, tyres and oils."

The worrying thing about the BSE prion, as Dr Aguzzi puts it, is that "it is highly promiscuous in its choice of hosts. Unlike its counterpart in sheep, mice and hamsters it appears to infect animals of other species easily, especially when transmitted orally." Furthermore, he points out, the French research on the macaques used only about 50 to 100 milligrams of BSE-infected material for each monkey. "These macaques are well within the range of human consumption in some cases," he comments.

Cause for concern? Certainly. But quite possibly half of us don't have anything to worry about. Would you like to flip your coin again?

Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease in the UK

The most important figures in this table are in the bottom right-hand corner: the nine deaths so far from the "new variant" of Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (CJD) in the UK. While every death from CJD (and its other forms) is a personal tragedy, those nine deaths have further importance. Besides those nine deaths, two people with the disease are still alive. Diagnosis is usually only made after a death has been referred to the CJD Unit from hospitals or GPs. As the left-hand column shows, referrals have been holding steady. "Sporadic" CJD is the common form, usually found in people aged over 60. "Iatrogenic" is caused by the disease being introduced to the victim – mostly through treatment with human growth hormone. "Familial" cases occur in families which have a mutation of the PrP gene (see main text). "GSS" – Gerstmann-Sträussler-Scheinker syndrome – is an extremely rare

Year	Referrals	Deaths of definite & probable causes					Total
		Sporadic	Iatrogenic	Familial	GSS	NYCJO	
1985	26	1	1	0	0	0	28
1986	26	0	0	0	0	0	26
1987	23	0	0	0	1	0	24
1988	21	1	1	0	0	0	23
1989	28	2	1	0	0	0	31
1990	52*	26	5	0	0	0	31
1991	75	32	1	3	0	0	36
1992	96	44	2	4	1	0	51
1993	78	37	4	2	2	0	45
1994	115	53	1	2	3	0	59
1995	79	33	4	1	2	3	43
1996	46	12	0	0	1	6	19

* The CJD Surveillance Unit was set up by the Department of Health and the Scottish Home and Health Department in May 1990. Source: Department of Health

Inherited disease also associated with PrP mutation.

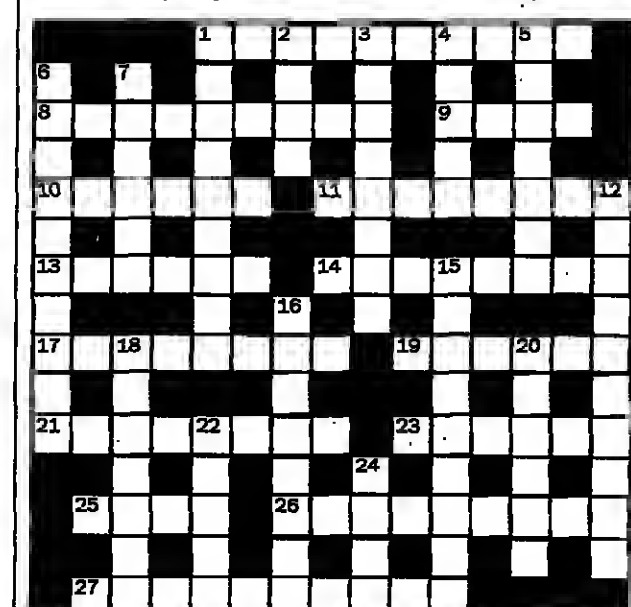
The CJD Unit is convinced vCJD is a new phenomenon. One non-UK case has been discovered –

retrospectively – in Lyons, bringing the total number of definite vCJD cases recorded to 12. The possibility that more might be out there is occupying many medics' time.

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

No. 3027, Monday 1 July

By Fortia



- ACROSS**
- He knocks the lot down (10)
 - Isn't easy getting out (3,2,4)
 - Fail to meet Greek leader before take off (4)
 - Girl's promotion a number accepted (6)
 - Finished with spoken poem (8)
 - Expert's able to return (6)
 - Manage to leave (3,5)
 - One isn't crazy about a foreigner (8)
 - Go for very musical pupil (6)
 - Raised points with VIP in front (8)
 - Sculptor's bill is sent back by star (6)
 - Hear dog's greeting (4)

- DOWN**
- Series of letters bodyguard receives (5,4)
 - Former PM's of concern to intelligence (4,6)
 - Notice a strain say (9)
 - Catch nothing in pen (4)
 - Does again object to key charges (8)
 - Approaching time of darkness (5)
 - Seaport's rough grass (7)
 - Fashionable swimsuit emerges undamaged (2,3,5)
 - Workshop boss I round on (6)
 - Bird-brained lawyer? (5,5)
 - Sober person smashed in bar-seat (9)
 - Vulture of drink I can shift in Spain (8)
 - Port has more of a bite to it (7)
 - Jacket in tan or a khaki shade (6)
 - Prize idiot? (5)
 - Expect delay (4)

"You're not sure your health insurance will pay my bill, are you?"

Until now, buying a cheaper private healthplan has meant compromising on the amount of cover you get. But Primecare, a new policy from Prime Health, actually gives you comprehensive cover – at a budget price.

So, if you're buying a policy, ask yourself: does it cover out-patient treatment, like specialist consultations? Does it give you immediate access to private treatment? Does it guarantee full payment of surgeons' and anaesthetists' fees? Will it pay for alternative medicine?

Primecare gives you all this. In fact, we believe it to be the best deal currently on the market. Why not switch immediately? You can be covered the moment you contact our Customer Advisers on 0800 77 99 55.

Prime Health
A member of the Standard Life Group

Call Prime Health on 0800 77 99 55, or fill in the coupon.

Title _____ First name _____
PLEASE USE BLOCK CAPITALS
Surname _____ Date of birth _____
Address _____
Postcode _____
Phone (inc. STD code) Day _____ Evening _____
Date of birth of the eldest person requiring cover _____
Cover required: Single ☐ Married ☐ Family ☐ Single parent family ☐
If you already have private medical insurance please state renewal date _____
Please post to (no stamp required) Prime Health Limited, FREEPOST, SK 3042 Stockport, Cheshire SK2 6YB.

MO248NG